

1952

STATE OF WEST BENGAL

V ANWAR ALI SARKAR

PAGE 8

SPORT



NEW ZEALAND BEAT SOUTH AFRICA BY 50 RUNS, TO MEET INDIA IN FINAL PAGE 22

## 6-POINT RESOLUTION PASSED AT ALL-PARTY MEETING CALLED BY STALIN

## TN parties oppose delimitation: Freeze 1971 Census as basis for 30 more yrs

Call for Joint Action Committee with members from other southern states

ARUN JANARDHANAN & NIKHLA HENRY  
CHENNAI, HYDERABAD,  
MARCH 5

IN A rare display of unity, most political parties across Tamil Nadu came together for an all-party meeting called by Chief Minister M K Stalin at the State Secretariat on Wednesday to oppose the delimitation of Parliamentary constituencies,

which is due in 2026.

In a six-point resolution, the parties asked the Centre to extend the 1971 Census-based delimitation framework for another 30 years beyond 2026, to ensure fair representation for states that have effectively controlled their population. It is unjust to reduce Tamil Nadu's parliamentary representation only because it has effectively implemented population control measures in the national

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



CM M K Stalin arrives for the all-party meet in Chennai. PTI

Polls ahead, Stalin takes lead as anti-BJP voice

ARUN JANARDHANAN  
CHENNAI, MARCH 5

IN his determined campaign to emerge as the voice of the South, and as the face of the Opposition to the largely North-centric BJP, DMK chief and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin will count Wednesday as a success.

Stalin, who has been taking

on the Centre over its all-India projects such as NEET for admission to medical colleges and the National Education Policy (NEP), managed to get parties across the divisive political spectrum in Tamil Nadu to join him in opposing any delimitation based on new population data.

A delimitation leading to a change in the number of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Trump: High tariffs by India and others unfair, reciprocal tariffs from April 2

RAVI DUTTA MISHRA  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

CRITICISING THE high tariffs imposed by India and other countries as "not fair", US President Donald Trump on Tuesday announced reciprocal tariffs from April 2.

Trump's remarks, in an address to the Joint Session of the US Congress, signalled that negotiations for a trade deal may not yield concessions for New Delhi on sweeping duties. He singled out the auto sector, where, he said, India charges tariffs of over 100 per cent.

"Other countries have used

## THE WORLD

U.S. SUPREME COURT PUSHES BACK ON USAID FUNDING  
PAGE 14

tariffs against us for decades and now it's our turn to start using them against those other countries. On average, the European Union, China, Brazil, India, Mexico and Canada – have you

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED  
PAGE 15

## UKRAINE, TRADE ON TABLE

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy with their spouses Kyoko Jaishankar, Nicola Green in London. Jaishankar also met UK PM Keir Starmer. Besides bilateral ties, Ukraine was also discussed. PTI PAGE 6

## SCHEME FOR WOMEN AGED BELOW 60

₹2,500 pm payout for Delhi women: Annual income cap set at ₹3 lakh

GAYATHRI MANI  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

WOMEN WHOSE household income is less than Rs 3 lakh per year, and those who do not pay tax will be eligible for the Rs 2,500 grant from the Delhi government, The Indian Express has learnt.

Only those aged between 18 and 60, who do not hold government jobs and are not receiving any other government financial assistance, will get the grant under the BJP government's Mahila Samriddhi Scheme, officials said.

The scheme was one of the top poll promises made by the BJP in the run-up to the Delhi Assembly elections. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had promised that it will be implemented by March 8, International Women's Day.

According to sources, the government has estimated that around 15-20 lakh women will meet the criteria.

"Several rounds of meetings have taken place to finalise the modalities of the scheme. The Cabinet note will be ready by

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



## 12 DAYS ON, EIGHT STILL TRAPPED IN TELANGANA TUNNEL

## 5 yrs before tunnel collapse, report red-flagged 'fault zone', weak rocks

NIKHILA HENRY  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 5

FIVE YEARS before a part of the SLBC Tunnel in Telangana collapsed, trapping eight men on February 22 this year, a report commissioned by Jaiprakash Associates Ltd warned of a possible "fault zone" in the tunnel – stretches where the possibility of collapse is high.

Jaiprakash Associates Ltd is the Noida-based company that was awarded the tunnelling contract in 2005.

The report, Tunnel Seismic Prediction (TSP) - 303 Plus, was prepared in January 2020 by



Rescue operation underway to trace the workers trapped inside the tunnel in Nagarkurnool, Wednesday. PTI

Amberg Tech AG, a company that surveys tunnelling. According to the report, the fault zone existed

between 13.88 km (13,882 m) and 13.91 km (13,914 m) from

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**MARUTI SUZUKI****NEXA**

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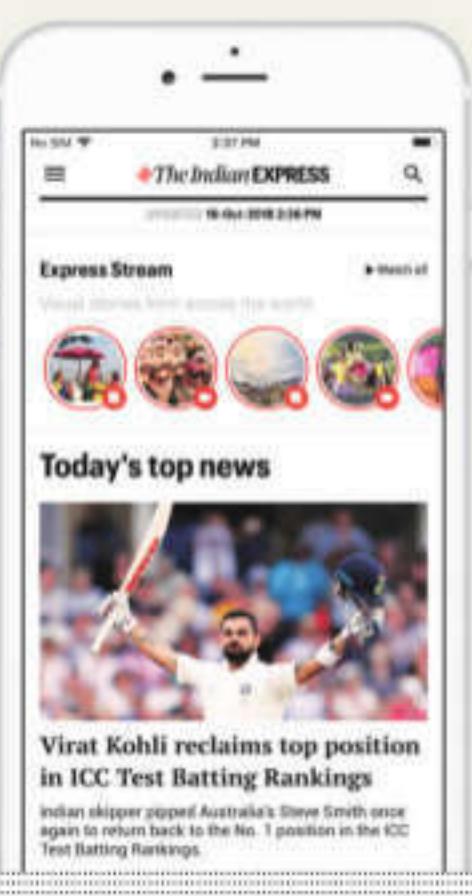
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### THE 'INVISIBLE' THREAD THAT CONNECTS PONDICHERRY AND VIETNAM: AN INTERVIEW WITH PROFESSOR ANANYA JAHANARA KABIR

Vietnam is like a "public secret" in Pondicherry, says Ananya. In her conversation with The Indian Express, she explained the complex colonial history that ties the two territories and the many residues it has left behind

#### TECH



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## EXPRESS AUDIO

### BJP elections, transgender health clinic shut & techie found dead in Hyderabad

In this episode of 3 Things, we discuss the BJP presidential elections and the reasons for the delay. We discuss Mitr, India's first comprehensive transgender health clinic, shutting down due to lack of USAID funds. We discuss a software professional who was found dead at her home in Hyderabad

## UP, Bihar population welcome sign, not a problem, says Naidu

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

ANDHRA PRADESH Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu said Wednesday that the population of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are a "welcome sign rather than a problem" as demographic dividend is good for the country.

Naidu was addressing a press conference in New Delhi after meeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari to discuss various issues.

Stating that many countries across the world are struggling with an ageing population, he said he also wants the southern states to promote population growth. He, however, refused to take a stand on delimitation, since, he said, there has been no Bill yet and that he would not comment on assumptions.

"The ageing population is an issue. Europe, Japan and China have an ageing problem. In North India, Bihar and UP population is a welcome sign rather than a problem. India has a demographic dividend. Promotion of population is important. What we need is demographic management," Naidu said.

The TDP chief's comments come after Tamil Nadu CM M K Stalin recently urged young couples to have children "immediately" after marriage as higher population is a criterion to get more MPs "as the delimitation exercise would be on the basis of population".

Regarding a question on Tamil Nadu's opposition to the three-language formula, Naidu said that it is "better to learn Hindi" for mingling with people in the country. He also said that he wants to pro-



Andhra CM Chandrababu Naidu meets Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

mote English for international exposure and that Telugu is promoted in his state as the mother tongue. He said that he was an advocate of learning not just three but multiple languages.

At present, the DMK-led Tamil Nadu government is at loggerheads with the BJP-ruled Centre over its NEP 2020, which has retained the three-language formula with fewer restrictions on the choices of languages.

"Today, the biggest problem for me is petitions on land grabbing. Even forest land has been grabbed. We want to deal with it firmly. So, the Andhra Pradesh land grabbing provision Bill has been passed," Naidu told reporters. He added that he also discussed with Shah a Bill to counter drug menace, including its cultivation, in the state.

"We have discussed the destruction of Andhra Pradesh under the previous government. The debt is ₹10 lakh crore," Naidu said. He said that during his meeting with Sitharaman, he discussed the intra-linking of rivers in the state so that drought-prone areas of Rayalaseema is benefited.

## Jagan keeps up demand for principal Opp tag, cites Delhi example

SREENIVAS JANYALA  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 5

THE YSRCP's demand to be declared principal opposition party in the state continued to roil the Andhra Pradesh Assembly, with the party protesting yet again Wednesday after Speaker C Ayyanna Patrudu rejected party chief Jagan Mohan Reddy's request to be recognised as Leader of Opposition.

Calling former CM Jagan's request to be recognised as LoP "unreasonable", Patrudu said the law required parties to have at least 18 members to qualify for the position. YSRCP has 11 of 175 seats. This is the second time since the Budget Session started February 24 that YSRCP has raised the demand for LoP in the House.

Minister N Lokesh Naidu also made a statement in Assembly supporting the Speaker's stance. However, Jagan opposed the Speaker's ruling.

## FROM PAGE ONE

FULL REPORTS ON  
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

### Tamil Nadu parties oppose delimitation, pass resolution

interest, the resolution said.

Besides underlining that there should not be any reduction in the number of Lok Sabha seats, the meeting also called for a Joint Action Committee (JAC) comprising MPs from Tamil Nadu and other southern states to raise awareness and coordinate efforts in the "fight against delimitation".

Besides the ruling DMK, the Congress, AIADMK, Left parties, Vidyuthalai Chiruthaigai Katchi and Tamilaga Vetti Kazhagam attended the meeting. The BJP, Naam Tamil Katchi and Tamil Maanila Congress stayed away.

"The sword of delimitation is hanging over South India," Stalin said in his opening remarks. "Tamil Nadu is going to be severely affected by this... It will suppress Tamil Nadu's voice in the national political arena," he said, adding that such an approach would "punish Tamil Nadu for successfully implementing population control measures and contributing significantly to national development."

Recalling that then PM A B Vajpayee had assured Parliament in 2000 that the 1971 Census would be used as the basis for delimitation until at least 2026, Stalin

proposed that the "status quo should continue for at least three decades", until 2056. He said the proposed delimitation was a "direct attack on Tamil Nadu's political representation in India's democracy". "If parliamentary, legislative and Rajya Sabha seats are reduced based on population, it would amount to penalising the southern states, particularly Tamil Nadu, for implementing successful socio-economic welfare schemes over the past five decades," Stalin said.

He called on all parties in the state to stand united on the issue, warning that the loss of seats would have lasting repercussions on Tamil Nadu's ability to assert its rights at the national level. "If the Union Government refuses to acknowledge the concerns raised by our 39 MPs today, imagine the consequences if that number is reduced even further... It would result in irreversible injustice to Tamil Nadu," he said. He said his government would take "all measures to prevent implementation of delimitation".

The resolution echoed these views. Delimitation will "weaken" Tamil Nadu and be a "threat to India's federal structure", it said.

Saying that delimitation based "exclusively" on population figures will affect "the political representation rights of Tamil Nadu and other South Indian states," it said: "It is entirely unjustifiable to reduce parliamentary representation of Tamil Nadu and other South Indian states solely because they have proactively implemented population control measures in the national interest."

The resolution demanded that if the total number of Lok Sabha seats is increased, Tamil Nadu must receive a proportionate increase in constituencies based on the 1971 Census. While stating that Tamil Nadu is not against delimitation in principle, it demanded a clear constitutional amendment ensuring that southern states are not unfairly penalised in the seat redistribution process.

At the meeting, several leaders expressed their consensus on the decision to oppose delimitation. Representing AIADMK, former minister D Jayakumar said, "Parliamentary seats of Tamil Nadu should be preserved for equal representation of people of Tamil Nadu. AIADMK has always stood against delimitation based

on population, and we are still standing for the same cause."

Actor-turned-politician Kamal Haasan said delimitation affects all southern states. He said that the BJP "wants to create Hindu", a jibe targeting the Centre's insistence that Tamil Nadu should implement the three-language formula.

According to several parties, including the DMK, the three-language formula would "impose Hindi" on Tamil students who currently study just two languages — Tamil and English.

While VCK leader Thol Thirumavalavan spoke in support of delimitation, he said a "status quo should continue based on 1971 Census". He taunted the state BJP unit and said the party should have joined the meeting if they had "any concern for the people of Tamil Nadu".

Meanwhile, the state BJP, led by state president K Annamalai, called the meeting "funny". "The fear of delimitation affecting the southern states is imaginary," Annamalai said. Earlier, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had said that the southern states, including Tamil Nadu, would not lose a single Parliamentary seat on account of delimitation.

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constituencies was last held in 1973. While the next one — over which the South is concerned — is due in 2026, it is unlikely to happen any time soon as the Census exercise that has to precede it is itself delayed.

What will come around earlier are the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, due next year, and with the Opposition AIADMK also on board its anti-delimitation plank, Stalin has clearly changed gears.

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Apart from the AIADMK, those present included DMK allies Congress and the Left, and actor-politician Vijay's newly launched Tamilaga Vetti Kazhagam. Tamil nationalist party Naam Tamil Katchi and former Union Minister G K Vasan's Tamil Maanila Congress and BJP stayed away.

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Notably, India's auto component exports have been on the rise, primarily driven by the US market, due to the US-China trade war that Trump initiated during his first term. Total auto component exports jumped from \$4.8 billion in FY19 to \$7.2 billion in FY24, with exports to the US rising from \$1.3 billion to \$2.12 billion over the same period.

The Indian automobile industry had hoped to sustain this growth over the next five years, as India currently accounts for only 2 per cent of the US's \$300 billion auto parts imports. A trade war targeting China could have allowed India to secure a larger market share. However, reciprocal tariffs would mean tariffs on Indian auto parts would also increase, as the tariff differential between India and US stands at a steep 23 per cent, according to GTR.

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Trade experts said the US has long been pushing other countries to lower tariffs during multilateral negotiations and that reciprocal tariffs represent a more aggressive attempt to achieve a longstanding US goal. Abijith Das, a former trade negotiator and an expert in international trade policy and the WTO, said the US had sought reductions in tariffs from all countries during the WTO Doha Round in November 2001, but these efforts did not come to fruition at the time.

"They wanted all countries to reduce their bound tariffs, which would have been less ambitious than what the US is attempting now. At that point, under the Doha Round, the US failed to achieve its goal. But through Trump's threat of reciprocal tariffs, he might achieve much more than what the US wanted during the Doha Round. Beyond pushing for lower tariffs, he may also gain concessions on government procurement and Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs)," he said.

Meanwhile, efforts to soften the impact of reciprocal tariffs are ongoing. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal began his US trip on Monday to meet the new United States Trade Representative, Jamieon Greer, who has been tasked with implementing Trump's tariff plan. Greer was also part of Trump's first administration, which broadly targeted China, helping create export opportunities for India, particularly

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Meanwhile, another study on the tunnel alignment had revealed a different anomaly, again in 2020. As per a research paper by former Director General of Geological Survey of India Mandapalli Raju and Jaiprakash Associate's geologist Rituraj Deshmukh, the tunnelling started with poor subsurface exploration.

The paper, Geotechnical aspects of a long tunnel, driven by TBM at SLBC of AMR Project, Telangana State, India, reads, "As the entire tunnel alignment falls in Tiger Reserve Forest, subsurface investigations such as drilling boreholes or excavation of drifts along the tunnel alignment were not permitted. Further, most of the tunnel alignment is inaccessible for physical examination. As a result, excavation of the tunnel was commenced without any firm and confirmed geotechnical data."

Tunnelling started with a "broad preliminary assessment of the terrain" based on "the data available and experience gained in tunnels of Srisailam Left Bank Underground Power Station present in the vicinity, and taking help of aerial photo study and using remote sensing techniques", the paper read.

Those feared dead in the tunnel were identified as Sunny Singh and Gurpreet Singh of Robbins Tunnel Boring Machines Manufacturing Company, and Manoj Kumar, Srinivas, Sandeep Sahu, Santosh Sahu, Anuj Sahu and Jagath Khes of Jaiprakash Associates Ltd.

### • Trump: High tariffs unfair

heard of them? And countless other nations charge us tremendously higher tariffs than we charge them," Trump said. "It's very unfair. India charges us auto tariffs higher than 100 per cent."

"India charges us 100 per cent tariffs; the system is not fair to the US, it never was. On April 2, reciprocal tariffs kick in. Whatever they tax us, we will tax them. If they use non-monetary tariffs to keep us out of their market, then we will use non-monetary barriers to keep them out of our market," Trump said.

"This comes weeks after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US raised hopes in the Indian industry that a trade deal could help India secure relief from sweeping US tariffs in exchange for market access for US products. India had proactively slashed tariffs on a number of items, such as bourbon whiskey, even before negotiations began.

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### Push to old US demand

Trade experts said the US has long been pushing other countries to lower tariffs during multilateral negotiations and that reciprocal tariffs represent a more aggressive attempt to achieve a longstanding US goal.

"They wanted all countries to reduce their bound tariffs, which would have been less ambitious than what the US is attempting now. At that point, under the Doha Round, the US failed to achieve its goal. But through Trump's threat of reciprocal tariffs, he might achieve much more than what the US wanted during the Doha Round. Beyond pushing for lower tariffs, he may also gain concessions on government procurement and Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs)," he said.

### India's high tariffs on automobiles

Trump's remarks on high tariffs on automobiles are particularly significant, as India exports nearly 30 per cent of its total auto parts and accessories to the US, its

largest export market in this category. In FY24, India exported \$2.12 billion worth of "parts and accessories of motor vehicles" to the US, out of a total of \$7.20 billion in exports for this commodity classification.

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# ENTRY-LEVEL CLASSES IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS 42,000 EWS and DG seats allotted in first draw of lots

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

For first time, draw of lots was held publicly. File

THE FIRST computerised draw of lots for admission of students under the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and Disadvantaged Group (DG) categories for entry-level classes in private schools was conducted on Wednesday for 42,000 seats, for which over 2.5 lakh applications had been received.

This was the first time that the draw of lots, which was conducted in the presence of Delhi Education Minister Ashish Sood, was held publicly. Multiple screens were installed at the venue so that parents could see the process in real-time.

At the event, two children initiated the draw. Bhavesh pressed the draw button for KG and Class 1, while Bhavika initiated the draw for Nursery.

For Nursery admissions, 24,933 seats were available in 1,299 schools, for which 1,00,854 applications were received. For Kindergarten (KG), 4,682 seats were available in 622 schools, attracting 40,488 applications. In Class 1, 14,430 seats were up for allotment in 1,213 schools, with 62,597 applicants for the same.

All students selected in the draw will receive a message by evening and will be called to the Directorate of Education (DoE) office for document verification, Sood told mediapersons. "Once the DoE verifies the documents and approves the admission, schools cannot deny admission based on any document-related issue," he added.

"We have introduced multiple

safeguards to make sure the process remains fair. This includes a redraw option in case of objections, strict restrictions on mobile phone usage at the venue, and complete video surveillance. The entire process was carried out under the supervision of a special committee from DoE, which will also submit a sealed CD of the final results," Sood said.

Maintaining that it was a significant initiative, he added, "We have taken every possible step to ensure that the EWS admission process is fair, transparent and just. Every child deserves an equal chance at quality education."

Last December, L-G VK Saxena had approved the increase of the EWS income limit from Rs 2.5 lakh to Rs 5 lakh, allowing more children from underprivileged backgrounds to benefit from quality schooling.

A child who has got admission under the EWS, DG or Children with Special Needs (CWSN) category cannot again seek admission under the same categories in private unaided recognised schools.

Sood, meanwhile, said the registration period for children with special needs, transgender students and other categories has been extended.

**PANJAB UNIVERSITY, CHANDIGARH ANNUAL CONVOCATION**  
The 72nd Annual Convocation will be held on Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. (Sharp) in the Gymnasium Hall, Panjab University, Chandigarh. The Degrees for D.Sc, D.Litt., Ph.D. notified since 08.03.2024 till 10.03.2025, M.D., M.S., MDS to all candidates, M.Phil & all other Examinations to First Three divisioners for the period 08.03.2024 to 05.03.2025 will be conferred. Identification Cards to eligible candidates have already been issued to their concerned departments/institutions/colleges with detailed instructions (<https://registrar.puchd.ac.in/show-noticeboard.php?nid=1>). Attendance at Rehearsal is mandatory, will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. (Sharp). Guests will only be allowed with valid Invitation Cards, which is not transferable. Prof. Y.P. Verma, Registrar

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Director, IMR, Jalgaon Director, K.C.E. Society, Jalgaon

KCES's - A Profound Academic Movement

## After Lankan supervisor exit, PhD scholar quits SAU over Chomsky row

VIDHEESHAKUNTAMALLA  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

A PhD scholar at South Asian University whose doctoral research proposal on Kashmiri's ethnography and politics had earned him a showcase notice from the institution and led to a disciplinary inquiry against his supervisor has left SAU citing personal reasons, *The Indian Express* has learnt. The research proposal had referenced American linguist Noah Chomsky's criticism of the NDA government.

The PhD scholar's exit comes within six months of his faculty supervisor Sasanka Perera quitting over the issue. Perera, a Sri Lankan anthropologist who taught at SAU for 13 years and helped found its Sociology department, had told *The Indian Express* last September that he decided to retire prematurely because he did not see any "semblance of justice" coming from an inquiry that was initiated "on trumped-up and irrational charges". His last day on campus was July 31, 2024.

SAU is an international university sponsored by eight SAARC countries and comes under the Ministry of External Affairs. Sri Lanka is a member state of its Governing Board, and Perera was the only Sri Lankan professor on campus.

As first reported by *The Indian Express* on July 27 last year, SAU issued notices to Perera in April 2024 and the research scholar in May 2024 demanding an explanation regarding his conduct.

The notice issued to the PhD student flagged a private YouTube video of an interview with Chomsky, cited in the scholar's proposal, in which the linguist is heard saying that the Prime Minister is attempting to "dismantle Indian secular democracy" and "impose Hindu ethnocentrism".

While Perera subsequently quit over the issue, the researcher appeared before a disciplinary committee and apologised to the university administration for hunting sentiments.

According to sources, in December, officials from his department reached out to the re-

searcher to inquire about his absence. In response, it is learnt that he cited medical reasons and assured the university that he would return to the department in the first week of January 2025. However, on January 24, the university's Proctor office issued an email summoning him to appear before a proctorial committee on January 28. That same day, the scholar informed the office that he had withdrawn from the PhD programme. It is also learnt that he had conveyed that he was no longer associated with SAU, as he had decided to focus on his business and had already communicated this decision to his new supervisor.

When contacted, the scholar did not comment on the matter. SAU President Professor K K Agarwal told *The Indian Express* to direct queries to the press relations office. The press relations officer, Ravinder Singh, said, "The scholar has withdrawn from the PhD programme. He has not responded to calls and messages."

Former Delhi Chief Minister, Kejriwal currently has 'Z plus' security cover provided by the MHA based on the threat perception, and Z-category security which was given by Delhi Police.

## Should we retain Kejriwal's existing security cover: Police to ask MHA

Will also seek decision on security for Atishi



Gets 'Z plus' security from MHA, Z-category from police

MAHENDER SINGH  
MANRAL  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

Minister is entitled to Z-category security, which can be enhanced after an assessment. Due to multiple security threats, the MHA had granted 'Z plus' security cover to Kejriwal and the Z-category security was given by Delhi Police even after he resigned from the CM post in September 2024.

"Assessment of the threat perception of VIP or VVIPs are conducted by security agencies on the direction of the MHA," a senior officer said.

Meanwhile, after providing Z-category security cover to Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, the security unit has provided X-category security cover to ministers Ravinder Singh and Pankaj Singh. With this, all new ministers have security cover. Manjinder Singh Sirsa has Z-category security while Parvez Sahib Singh, Kapil Mishra and Ashish Sood have Y-category security cover.

## Kingpin of gang who deployed domestic helps to burgle homes arrested in Delhi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

FOR ALMOST five years, Ram Ashish Mukhiya evaded the police. The 36-year-old was the alleged kingpin of a gang with a network of domestic workers across the country who would conduct burglaries worth lakhs at his bidding.

Over the years, he had been arrested multiple times but would manage to get bail and slip through the police's fingers. His latest burglary stint was at an upscale locality of Hyderabad in 2019.

On Tuesday, the law caught up with him. Inspector Krishan Kumar of the Delhi Police Crime Branch received a tip-off about Mukhiya's presence at Som Bazar Road in Mohan Garden.

Knowing that the house would be empty for a while, police said, Mukhiya and the two recently employed house help robbed the house of cash and

jewellery worth Rs 25-30 lakh.

According to police, Mukhiya would widen his ambit to Chennai, stealing jewellery and cash worth Rs 40-50 lakh from a house in Mambalam. He was arrested in this case, said police, and later transferred to Tihar Jail.

After his release in 2019, Mukhiya and three of his accomplices targeted a house in Banjara Hills, an upscale locality in Hyderabad, where the gang stole jewellery and cash worth Rs 1 crore. Mukhiya was arrested again and granted bail in 2020, said police, after which he failed to show up to his court dates despite repeated summons.

According to police, Mukhiya first worked as a caretaker at a coaching institute in Mumbai before spending six months working at a call centre in Munirka, followed by a two-year

tenure as a team member at a leading food joint in Vasant Kunj.

"During this time, he met [one of his henchmen] who introduced him to a network of houses where his acquaintances worked as domestic help. [The henchman] proposed that they commit thefts in these homes and, once they accumulated enough money, start their own business," explained DCP (Crime Branch) Satish Kumar.

"Following his first theft in 2014, Mukhiya expanded his criminal operations across India, forming a network of house help whom he used to carry out burglaries with his gang. Over time, he deployed hundreds of help in different states. Despite multiple arrests, Mukhiya was released from jail multiple times but never faced trial in court after his release," said DCP Kumar.

The court, in an order dated March 4, said that a photocopy of the FIR in the case was received by the CBI in New Delhi from Delhi Police DCP (Central District) on October 24, 2015. The letter, addressed to DSP (CBI), mentioned that the FIR, along with relevant documents, was being sent to the CBI for necessary action.

The court noted that the Delhi Police DCP was not the competent authority to transfer or forward any FIR to the CBI for re-registration of a case, without an order of the Union government. "On this basis, it is concluded that the FIR was not forwarded to CBI through a proper channel...and hence, the question of re-registration of the said FIR does not arise," ACJM Maheshwari said.

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Shopping

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School fees

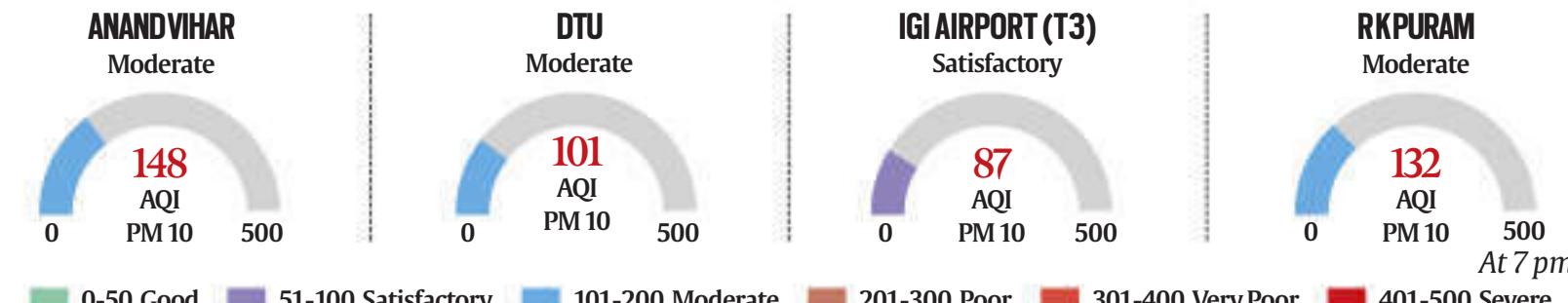
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**S K Y W A T C H**  
FORECAST: March 6  
Mainly clear sky. Strong surface winds (20-30 kmph) till forenoon

**MAX: 28-30** 0.6°C above normal | **MIN: 12-14** 1.4°C above normal

**PARVESH SAHIB SINGH TAKES A BOAT RIDE TO INSPECT RIVER**

# 1,300 MT of garbage removed in 10 days from Yamuna, says PWD minister

**SOPHYA MATHEW**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

AS MANY as 1,300 metric tonnes (MT) of garbage has been removed from the Yamuna in the past 10 days, Delhi Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC) Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh, who inspected the river by boat on Wednesday, said.

This comes days after it came to light that the Delhi government is planning to launch a ferry and cruise service along the river. The Delhi Tourism and Transport Development Corporation has issued a request for proposals to choose an operator for two solar-powered cruise ships for the purpose.

Cleaning the Yamuna was one of the key promises made by the BJP in the recently concluded Delhi polls. A four-pronged strategy is at the heart of a plan, rolled out by L-G V K Saxena, to clean Yamuna in three years. With trash skimmers, weed harvesters, and



Minister Pravesh Sahib Singh takes a boat tour on the Yamuna river, Wednesday. Tashi Tobgyal

a dredge utility craft, the cleaning operation started last month.

Singh on Wednesday took a boat trip from the Boat Club at Civil Lines to the ITO Chhath Ghat. As the boat ferried the minister and officials, workers busily picked up solid waste along the riverbank.

Speaking to the media after the ride, Singh said, "With the help of the DDA (Delhi Development Authority), we have started work on cleaning the river... we are working on mission mode. In the last 10 days, 1,300 MT of waste has been collected from here."

"No work has been done

even on paper to clean the river in the last 10 years," he added.

All drains in Delhi will be connected to sewage treatment plants (STPs) and their capacity will be increased to prevent untreated wastewater from flowing into the river, he said.

"...CTPs (common treatment plants) will be installed in industrial areas to ensure proper disposal of chemical waste. Special drives are being conducted to clean Yamuna's banks and develop green zones along the river," he added.

"We have instructed DDA to develop the Yamuna Riverfront to transform the riverbank into a tourism and cultural hub," Singh said.

Speaking about the ferry service, he said, "The service will have one pick-up and drop point along a single stretch. There will also be a restaurant nearby. The motive is to attract more people to Yamuna."

"The main agenda of our government is to restore the river to

its original form... I want to assure the people that there won't be a flood situation again in Delhi. Repairs, oiling, and elevation of security walls at ITO Barrage gates are being carried out to prevent flooding," Singh added.

Accusing the previous AAP government of "misleading people and indulging in corruption in the name of Yamuna cleaning", Singh said the Union government is looking to transform Yamuna into a clean riverfront, similar to the Sabarmati Riverfront. "The Prime Minister himself is monitoring the cleaning," he said.

Later in the day, he had a review meeting with officials to assess the progress of clean-up efforts. Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Additional Chief Secretary (I&FC) Navin Kumar Choudhary said, "Solid waste is being cleared in an eco-friendly manner from the river; no chemicals are being used. The efforts have started to show... Earlier, people couldn't come near the ghat... now they can."



Homes around the Old Iron Bridge were demolished as part of an anti-encroachment drive. Gajendra Yadav

## Makeshift homes and shanties demolished near Yamuna bank

**SAMAN HUSAIN**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

MAKESHIFT HOMES of some jhuggi-jhopri dwellers, who stayed along the Yamuna riverbank, were demolished at Northeast Delhi's Seelampur on Wednesday as part of an anti-encroachment drive, leading to protests from local residents.

A single bulldozer, accompanied by Delhi Police personnel, rolled into the settlement near the Old Iron Bridge around 4 pm, dismantling three makeshift homes of those who live under the bridge and four shanties that stood next to the thickly-forested Yamuna belt.

This comes three days after construction machinery had arrived in the area to carry out redevelopment work along the river.

After the shanties were torn down, officials on Wednesday dug pits into the ground to prevent residents from rebuilding.

Before leaving, they announced that the remaining dwellers must vacate their homes by Thursday morning. According to local residents, 70-80 families staying around the Old Iron Bridge received eviction notices.

daughter and I grow potted plants, and my son-in-law sells them on his cart. They have taken away our house, our means to live," she said.

Most of the residents of Yamuna Khadar are daily wage workers, rickshaw pullers, and small scale farmers.

Mohammad Hazrat (25), another resident, said, "They came the night before and announced we must leave. We have been paying rent for the farms to our (landlords). Farming is all we know. We don't have another place to go."

## Delhi gets 3 aranya mandirs, focus on holistic patient care

**ANKITA UPADHYAY**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

OVER a week after the Ayushman Bharat scheme was passed by the Delhi Cabinet, the central government on March 3 turned three primary health centres (PHCs) in Najafgarh, Palam and Ujwala into Ayushman Aranya Mandirs (AAMs). At these centres, the primary focus will be on a holistic approach towards patient care and disease prevention.

In a review meeting with senior officials of the department, DTC and DMRC, among others, Transport Minister Pankaj Kumar Singh issued directions in this regard. As per a statement, the meeting was held to discuss a 100-day roadmap to revamp transport infrastructure.

The plan unveiled by Singh included a stringent drive against unregistered vehicles and implementation of stricter enforcement



The Ayushman Aranya Mandir in Palam. Express

ity will be different from a regular dispensary. "So far, the focus at a PHC was on clinical and immunisation services. Now, the focus will be more on prevention of disease and promotion of health," said the officer.

He added that the staff will be trained to teach patients and the general population yoga, screen them for blood pressure and diabetes during community outreach programmes, and provide lifestyle modification advice.

At the Palam AAM, a batch of nurses is being trained in yoga along with their regular training.

A doctor at this AAM said the staff will remain the same – two medical officers, a specialist doctor on a rotational basis who comes once a week, eight women health visitors who are qualified nurses, and six auxiliary nurses and midwives. "Apart from this, we also have lab technicians, part-time workers, sanitary workers and maternity staff."

An official added that ASHA (accredited social health activist) workers and ANM (auxiliary nurse midwives) workers will be conducting the community outreach programmes under the Ayushman Aranya Mandir. "They will hold health promotion activities like they have been doing under the Information Education Communication (IEC) and Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) programmes," said the officer.

## Row over expansion of mosque in NE Delhi: MCD revokes nod for work

**PRAGYNESH & SAMAN HUSAIN**  
NEW DELHI MARCH 5

AMID a row between residents over the expansion of a mosque in Northeast Delhi's Brahmpuri, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has revoked permission for the work. "Permission was obtained on material misrepresentation and concealment of facts under the Saral Scheme. After a showcause [was issued], and based on the reply and other facts, the permission so obtained has been cancelled," an MCD spokesperson said.

The Delhi Police has intensified patrolling in the area.

Al-Mateen Masjid, constructed in 2013, is in gali no. 13 of Brahmpuri. In 2023, trustees of the mosque purchased an adjacent plot in gali no. 12 and started construction work. However, work stopped in November that year after a PCR call was made by the area's residents claiming the construction was illegal, said police. The trustees then approached the MCD and got permission to expand the structure on November 23, 2024. This would extend the masjid to gali no. 12, facing an old temple.

Construction resumed in

February this year. On February 13, another complaint was filed by residents alleging the illegal construction of a structure adjacent to Al-Mateen mosque, police said.

Following the complaint, on February 18, the MCD issued a showcause notice to Al-Mateen Welfare Society. Construction has been stopped since.

On Wednesday, three police personnel were seen patrolling the area while people sat outside their houses, some of which had 'ye ghar bikau hai' posters stuck on their walls.

Initially, residents had requested that the gate of the under-expansion masjid not be opened. Now, they have called for a complete halt in construction. "Why is it being built in front of

the mandir when it's already in gali no. 13?" asked Suman, 45, a resident of L block in gali no. 12.

People working with the masjid declined to comment.

A police officer said personnel from Usmanpur police station would be present in the area till the situation de-escalated.

On Monday, police said a complaint regarding stone pelting on the intervening night of March 2-3 was filed at New Usmanpur police station. Police, however, said claims of stone pelting couldn't be corroborated. "No corroboration of the alleged incident was made. However, it's pertinent to mention here there was no PCR call about the alleged incident narrated in the complaint," DCP (Northeast) Ashish Mishra said.

According to a medical officer at the Najafgarh centre, the facil-



Police have intensified patrolling in Brahmpuri. Gajendra Yadav

## EXHIBITION IN DELHI

# 250 gamchhas, 14 states: Honouring the simple cloth of the common man

**SHINY VARGHESE**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

THE TRADITIONAL *gamchha* asks the Zebra Question – is it a red cloth with white checks or a white cloth with red checks? Is it a turban in a towel sometimes or a towel and a turban all the time? American poet Shel Silverstein's poem affords multiplicities and an exhibition on India's ubiquitous garment, the *gamchha*, does just that.

At the National Crafts Museum and Hastkala Academy in Bharat Mandapam, the show

'Gamchha: From the Extraordinary in the Ordinary' – presented by Dastkari Haat Samiti – showcases the country's regional diversities in fabric as much as it presents the wealth of symbolism and craft.

With over 250 *gamchhas* from 14 states across India, the exhibition honours the chequered fabric and the ordinary men and women who drape them – the farm hand in the field, the mason who lays the brick wall, the fishermen who bring in the fruits of the sea, the labourer carrying his load, the young man on his bike, the lady carrying her baby to

work, and the old man who has stepped into the water for a dip, among others.

The simple and coarse cloth, barely 70 inches x 35 inches, woven from leftover yarn, is what most of India uses to wipe its sweat, steam and grime of daily living. The exhibition is an ode to this cloth and tradition.

Curated and designed by architect Suparna Bhalla of Abaxial Design Private Limited, *gamchhas* are displayed on latticed bamboo and steel frames at the exhibition, alluding to their strength and resilience all at once.

"As architects, we examined



The exhibition at National Crafts Museum and Hastkala Academy in Bharat Mandapam. Dastkari Haat Samiti

the fabric's inherent form – its ability to twist and turn and become a multitude of things. We have also explored idioms around the *gamchha*. For instance, going back to Bengal's great famine, there's a saying – 'if you are hungry, wet your *gamchha* and tie it around your waist'. The exhibition is an ode to toil, and to our ability to work hard and to appreciate those who do," says Suparna.

That celebration manifests in origami designer and artist Ankon Mitra's installation of the *gamchha* that folds and wrinkles across the Yoga Gallery of the Crafts Museum in shades of red and white.

President-founder of the Samiti, Jaya Jaitly's own explora-

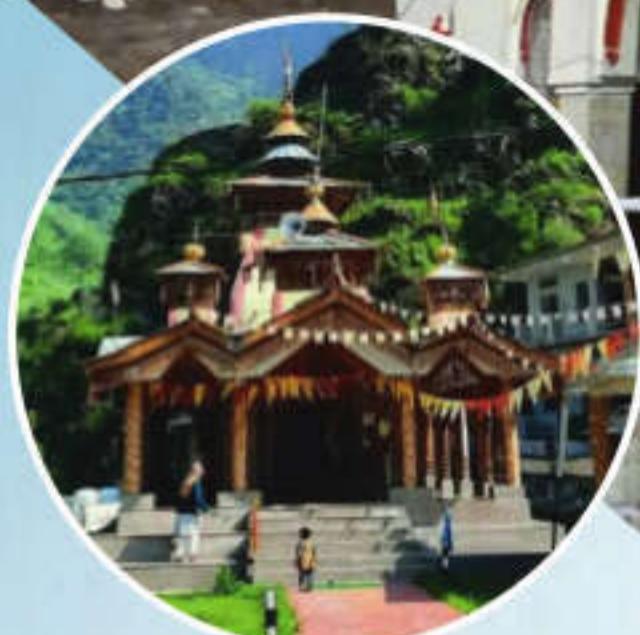
tion with the cloth began nearly a decade ago, when women weavers at Phulia in West Bengal were commissioned to create *gamchha* saris. "For this show, we have created a culture history of the fabric, which appear as photos, snippets and video projections that present the closeness of the fabric to people's cultural life, their social rituals and ceremonies. It is also an indication of how each culture feeds from the proximity of their next state or its own ethnic history. People want to make their lives beautiful amidst the drudgery of work and labour. The colourful *gamchha* becomes their companion – that emotional connect with home and family," says Jaya.

The exhibition, which closes on March 10, also has live demonstrations by craftspeople and *gamchha*-inspired textiles besides accessories and lifestyle products.

माँ गंगा का  
शीतकालीन प्रवास  
**गंगा मंदिर**  
मुखीमठ, मुखवा (उत्तरकाशी)



# देवभूमि उत्तराखण्ड में शीतकालीन तीर्थाटन एवं पर्यटन



माँ यमुना का  
शीतकालीन प्रवास  
**यमुना मंदिर**  
खरसाली (उत्तरकाशी)



श्री केदारनाथ जी का  
शीतकालीन प्रवास  
**ओकारेश्वर मंदिर**  
ऊखीमठ (रुद्रप्रयाग)



श्री बद्रीनाथ जी का  
शीतकालीन प्रवास  
**योगध्यान बद्री मंदिर**  
पांडुकेश्वर (चमोली)



मुखीमठ, मुखवा माँ गंगा का शीतकालीन प्रवास स्थान है। शीतकाल के दौरान गंगोत्री मन्दिर के कपाट बंद होने पर माँ गंगा की मूर्ति को गंगोत्री से मुखवा लाया जाता है और शीतकाल के दौरान इसी मन्दिर में माँ गंगा की पूजा की जाती है।



नरेन्द्र मोदी  
प्रधानमंत्री

पुष्कर सिंह धामी  
मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तराखण्ड

## गंगा मंदिर

मुखवा, हर्षिल, उत्तरकाशी, उत्तराखण्ड

आगमन पर

### प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी

का

### हार्दिक स्वागत एवं अभिनन्दन

बृहस्पतिवार, दिनांक 06 मार्च, 2025 | प्रातः 09.00 बजे

### माननीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी द्वारा माँ गंगा मन्दिर में दर्शन एवं पूजा।

उत्तराखण्ड शीतकालीन पर्यटन प्रदर्शनी का अवलोकन।  
रैलियों और पदयात्राओं को हरी झंडी दिखाकर रवानगी।  
हर्षिल में सार्वजनिक समारोह।

कार्यक्रम का सीधा प्रसारण डीडी न्यूज पर

### उत्तराखण्ड: एक अद्वितीय, रोमांचक और प्राकृतिक गंतव्य

- उत्तराखण्ड के पर्वत, कलकल बहती नदियां और मन को शान्ति पहुंचाने वाले मंदिरों से तीर्थयात्रियों व पर्यटकों को मिलता है प्राकृतिक एवं आध्यात्मिक शान्ति का अहसास।
- सर्दियों के महीने में शांत पहाड़ों के बीच ध्यान, योग और आत्म-चिंतन की अनुभूति से जीवन को मिलता है नया अनुभव।
- ौली, नैनीताल और मसूरी जैसे लोकप्रिय डेस्टिनेशन में स्कीइंग, पैराग्लाइडिंग, स्लोबोर्डिंग और स्नो ट्रैकिंग की सुविधा पर्यटकों के लिए रोमांचकारी।
- राष्ट्रीय उद्यान और वन्यजीव अभ्यारण्य के लिए विश्व प्रसिद्ध है देवभूमि उत्तराखण्ड।



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# 6 GOVT & POLITICS

## At Jaishankar meet with UK PM, trade, tech & Ukraine

SHUBHAJIT ROY  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

DAYS AFTER he hosted an emergency meeting of European leaders in support of Ukraine and its President Volodymyr Zelensky — after the latter's public showdown with US President Donald Trump and Vice-President J D Vance at the White House — British Prime Minister Keir Starmer "shared the UK's perspective" on the conflict with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in London on Tuesday night.

Besides bilateral ties, including on trade and technology, Jaishankar, who is on a six-day visit to the UK and Ireland, also discussed the Ukraine conflict in a meeting with his counterpart, British Foreign Secretary David Lammy.

"Delighted to call on Prime Minister @Keir\_Starmer at #10DowningStreet today. Conveyed the warm greetings of PM @narendramodi. Discussed taking forward our bilateral, eco-

nomic cooperation and enhancing people-to-people exchanges. PM Starmer also shared UK's perspective on the Ukraine conflict," Jaishankar said in a post on X.

"Held wide-ranging and productive talks with Foreign Secretary @DavidLammy over past two days at the Chevening House. We discussed the entire gamut of bilateral ties, especially our focus on strategic coordination, political cooperation, trade deal negotiation, education, technology, mobility and people-to-people exchanges. Agreed to formulate the next steps to further strengthen and structure them," Jaishankar said.

"We exchanged views on regional and global issues including the Ukraine conflict, West Asia, Bangladesh and the Commonwealth. In an uncertain and volatile world, India-UK ties contribute to stability and prosperity," he said.

Jaishankar also met Chevening Scholars from India. "A vivid expression of our talent and people-to-people ex-



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer. X/@Di\_Sjaishankar

changes, they surely are great advocates of India-UK ties," he said on X.

The UK-India partnership is expected to strengthen further with the opening of two new Indian consulates in Belfast and Manchester, boosting regional economic ties and delivering on the growth agenda, the British High Commission said in a state-

ment. "It comes as the UK welcomes Indian investment deals worth more than £100 million, which is creating jobs, strengthening growth, and helping working people by putting more money in their pockets," it said.

The "Foreign Ministers drove forward the UK-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. This focused on fostering mutual eco-

nomic growth, technological innovation, and collaboration on global challenges including climate change. They also discussed Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine, the Middle East and other global affairs," the statement said.

"One of my first visits as Foreign Secretary was to India because deepening our partnership for our shared growth and security is a key part of this government's Plan for Change," Lammy said. "Dr Jaishankar and I are supercharging our £41 billion trading relationship with India, after trade talks were re-launched in Delhi. It is the floor, not the ceiling of our ambitions that will benefit both our economies," he said.

The opening of new Indian consulates in Belfast and Manchester demonstrate the growing links between our peoples and how we are working together to deliver growth not only in London, but right across the UK. This expansion of India's diplomatic presence will further boost

our trading relationship and support the valued Indian community in the UK," Lammy said.

The ministers also discussed the Technology Security Initiative, launched during Lammy's visit to Delhi in July 2024. They touched on the opportunities for people in both countries from closer collaboration in sectors such as Artificial Intelligence, telecom and critical minerals.

"Opportunities include more effective and affordable healthcare and more resilient supply chains, as well as greater innovation, investment and job creation," the British High Commission statement said.

Earlier, Jaishankar also met Home Secretary Yvette Cooper, and held discussions on areas such as flow of talent and joint efforts to tackle "trafficking and extremism". In his meeting with the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, Jonathan Reynolds, Jaishankar said discussions were held on the progress of talks on a free trade agreement between India and the UK.

### MAHARASHTRA BUDGET SESSION

## Aurangzeb row: SP's Abu Azmi suspended from Assembly

ALOK DESHPANDE  
MUMBAI, MARCH 5



Will remain suspended until Mar 26, when the session ends

SAMAJWADI PARTY MLA Abu Azmi was suspended on Wednesday from the Maharashtra legislative Assembly till March 26, when the ongoing budget session ends, over his remarks praising Mughal emperor Aurangzeb.

BJP leader and Minister Chandrakant Patil on Wednesday moved the resolution of suspension in the House saying that Aurangzeb's praise amounted to insult of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and his son Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj.

The motion of suspension was passed unanimously.

"Azmi's comments praising Aurangzeb and criticising Sambhaji Maharaj do not suit the stature of a member of the Assembly and is an insult to the democratic institution of the legislative Assembly," Patil said.

BJP MLA Sudhir Mangatwar demanded stricter punishment to which Patil highlighted the Supreme Court order where suspension cannot be extended beyond one session.

Congress MLA Vijay Wadettiwar supported the resolution saying the opposition too stands against the insult of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj.

"Action should also be taken against (former journalist) Prashant Koratkar and (Marathi actor) Rahul Solapurkar who insulted Maharaj. The government is keeping quiet on this," he said.

Koratkar is accused of allegedly making a threat call to historian Indrajit Sawant. Countering Sawant's version of the Maratha



Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath

king's history, Koratkar reportedly made derogatory remarks on Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Sawant shared an audio clip of the telephonic conversation between the two.

Based on the complaint filed by Sawant, an FIR has been registered in Kolhapur against Koratkar who has denied his voice in the clip.

Actor Rahul Solapurkar, too,

landed in a controversy after his

remarks in an interview about the escape of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj from Agra. Solapurkar claimed that the escape of Shivaji Maharaj was not achieved using sweet containers, as popularly believed, but rather by bribing several Mughal commanders.

Azmi had said, "...Aurangzeb built several temples... I do not think he was a cruel administrator." He also said that during the Mughal emperor's reign, India was referred to as "sone ki chiriya (golden sparrow)" with its GDP accounting for 24% of the world GDP.

In a post on X on Tuesday, Azmi said his statements were

twisted. "Whatever I have said

about Aurangzeb is something

that has been stated by historians and writers. I have not made

any derogatory remarks against Shivaji Maharaj, Sambhaji

Maharaj or any national icons.

Still, if anyone is hurt by my

remarks, then I take back my comments."

## Yogi on Azmi: UP knows to take care of such people

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
LUCKNOW, MARCH 5



Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath

lighted that Dr Lohia had identified Lord Ram, Lord Krishna, and Lord Shiva as the pillars of India's unity. Still, the SP, he claimed, was now idolising "a tyrant like Aurangzeb".

Recalling historical events, Yogi narrated how Aurangzeb had imprisoned his father, Shah Jahan. He urged SP leaders to read Shah Jahan's biography, available in Patna's library, mentioning that Shah Jahan himself

had remarked that a Hindu, who serves his elderly parents and performs annual Shradh rituals is far nobler than Aurangzeb.

Though the State Legislative Council during the budget debate, Adityanath also

asked the SP to bring Azmi to UP

and said "Uttar Pradesh knows well how to take care of such people".

The UP CM accused the SP of

abandoning India's cultural heritage and straying from the principles of its founding thinker, Dr

Ram Manohar Lohia. He high-

lighted that Dr Lohia had identified

Lord Ram, Lord Krishna, and

Lord Shiva as the pillars of India's

unity. Still, the SP, he claimed, was

now idolising "a tyrant like

Aurangzeb".

The latest developments make one thing clear: 2026 may well be a year that belongs to the South. Neerja Chowdhury, Contributing Editor, The Indian Express, has covered the last 11 Lok Sabha elections

## DELHI CONFIDENTIAL

### Anju Rathi Rana appointed first ever woman Law Secretary

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

ANJU RATHI Rana, an Indian Legal Service Officer, was on Wednesday appointed as the new Law Secretary. She is the first woman to be appointed as Secretary, Legal Affairs, who is also called the Law Secretary.

Rana joined the Law Ministry as a Joint Secretary in 2027. Prior to that, she was a public prosecutor in the Delhi government for 18 years.

A notification announcing her appointment was issued on Wednesday.

Nitin Chandra, an IAS officer, was the Law Secretary until a few months ago and the post had been lying vacant since then.

## A GIFT FOR THE PRINCESS

Princess Astrid of Belgium receives a plant as she takes part in the Belgian Economic Mission, which aims to bring together the businesses of the two countries, in Mumbai. Sankhaeep Banerjee

their "excessive influence" was one reason for the party's defeat in the 2021 Assembly election, Satheesan claimed he had succeeded in conveying to workers that the party came first, before everything else.

"I am the first CLP (Congress Legislature Party) leader who does not have a group of my own. We did not try to demolish the groups, but the groups will destroy the party. We have created awareness that no group is above the party. Groupism also stymied potential leaders... we have had bitter experiences in our younger days. I myself lost many positions at the last minute. It's not possible to do these things now," Satheesan said.

Suggesting that he was a tough taskmaster, Satheesan, 60, added that the work culture in the Congress in Kerala had changed. "If you are given a responsibility, you have to take care of it... I am trying to build a culture that was absent in the

command held a meeting of its Kerala leaders in Delhi, where they were told to maintain discipline, toe the party line and not voice their personal opinions in public.

This came days after senior Congress leader and Thiruvananthapuram MP Shashi Tharoor said on another show of *Varthamanam* that the party needed to have a face, and to attract votes beyond its committed support base to avoid a third successive defeat in Kerala.

Tharoor gave his own example as a leader who had managed to expand his vote share beyond the party's.

Admitting that there are still "groups" in the state Congress and

Congress, which damaged the party gravely."

Satheesan lauded Congress leader and former Kerala MP Rahul Gandhi for taking the lead in fighting the BJP on issues such as secularism and the idea of India. However, he admitted, power was a necessary fuel for political parties.

"The Opposition's fight against populism and hypernationalism is not simple... That's where Rahul Gandhi's leadership is relevant. It's a fight without any compromise. Sometimes I feel he does not fight for power, but for change. It has an ideological frame and a base," Satheesan said, adding that this is a fight that has to be fought. "If the Congress also surrenders, India will not exist... There should be an idea of India."

But he added, "political parties need power too". FULL REPORT [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## WOMEN FIRST

THE SAMAJWADI Party is already campaigning keeping the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls in mind, it seems, going by what the party is promising for women voters. Considering the role women voters played in the Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi elections, the Akhilesh Yadav-led party has promised to introduce a "strik sammāna-smriddhi yojanā" if the party comes to power in 2027. The party has roped-in a TV actress for popularising the scheme among the masses. Besides the direct money transfer into the bank accounts of women, the scheme also promises mobile phones, laptops and setting up "PDA pathshala" for their skill development. Sources in the party say the decision on the scheme as well as how to publicise it was entirely that of Akhilesh.

## BENGALURU BAITHAK

THE AKHIL Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha 'baithak', the meeting of the highest decision-making body of the RSS, is going to be held between March 21 and 23 in Bengaluru. Sources say besides reviewing the progress of the centenary year celebrations, the members will also prepare a framework for various programmes, events, and campaigns in the months to come. Two resolutions on national issues will be considered for adoption, it is learnt.

LIZ MATHEW  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

SENIOR CONGRESS leader VD Satheesan has said that the party-led United Democratic Front (UDF) is clear that it will not project a chief ministerial face for the Kerala Assembly elections next year but fight under a collective leadership.

Projecting anyone, him included, would only hurt the UDF, Satheesan, the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, said.

"There is no dispute over a CM candidate... If I put forward as the CM candidate, the UDF will not win, because my focus will shift. My focus should only be on bringing the UDF back to power," Satheesan said on *Varthamanam*, a weekly podcast by *iMalayalam*, the Malayalam news portal of *The Indian Express*.

Last week, the Congress high

command held a meeting of its Kerala leaders in Delhi, where they were told to maintain discipline, toe the party line and not voice their personal opinions in public.

This came days after senior Congress leader and Thiruvananthapuram MP Shashi Tharoor said on another show of *Varthamanam* that the party needed to have a face, and to attract votes beyond its committed support base to avoid a third successive defeat in Kerala.

Tharoor gave his own example as a leader who had managed to expand his vote share beyond the party's.

Unlike in the past when Rahul

Gandhi easily let those aggrieved quit the party, he met Tharoor without any delay. Soon thereafter, a meeting of the party's Kerala leaders was called to plan the 2026 Assembly election strategy in which the MP was present. Tharoor clarified that he was not going to join the BJP or any other party and reiterated

that the "options" he spoke of were in the realm of literary pursuits and speaking engagements (which he does anyway). The speed with which the Congress acted shows that the party assesses it is in with a real chance to regain power in Kerala next year. Tharoor may or may not be projected as the party's CM candidate, which some in the Congress believe he is angling for, but he may have assured that his supporters stand a better chance of being given tickets. Clearly, the Congress does not want the Tharoor episode to vitiate the atmosphere for the party.

Then came D K Shivkumar

who expressed his angst at the Congress leadership but did so in a more difficult-to-pin-him-down manner. He simply sat by the side of Jaggi Vasudev at the Isha Yoga Centre near Coimbatore at its annual mega

celebrations on Shivaratri, where Amit Shah was also present.

For all his dissatisfaction,

Shivakumar would like to ensure, at the least, that for all its talk of the one person, one post formula, the Congress leadership allows him to retain both the Deputy CM-ship and the state Congress president's post.

Though the Congress has

managed, for the moment, to control the damage in both Kerala and Karnataka, damage has been done nonetheless. Tharoor and Shivakumar's statements have intensified the impression that the Congress is a faction-ridden party and its national leadership is unable to keep its senior leaders in check. This must have made the BJP smile.

Stalin takes on the

Centre

Shivakumar would like to ensure, at the least, that for all its talk of the one person, one post formula, the Congress leadership allows him to retain both the Deputy CM-ship and the state Congress president's post.

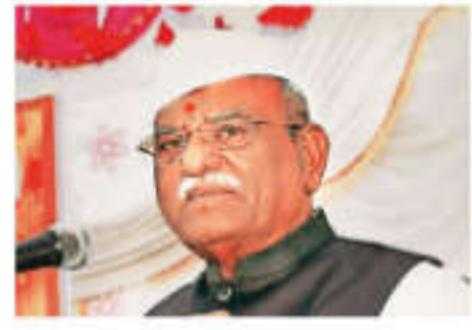
Though the Congress has

managed, for the moment, to control the damage in both Kerala and Karnataka, damage has

# Gravity in Vedic texts long before Newton discovery: Rajasthan Gov

Flags need to connect with Indian knowledge and science

HAMZA KHAN  
JAIPUR, MARCH 5



RAJASTHAN GOVERNOR Haribhau Kisanrao Bagde on Wednesday said that the theory of gravity was mentioned in the Vedic texts long before Isaac Newton discovered it in 1687.

Addressing the convocation ceremony of the Indira Gandhi National Open University's Regional Centre in Jaipur, the Governor said, "India has been the best in the world in the tradition of knowledge. India gave the decimal system to the whole world. Newton told the world about the theory of gravity much later. In India, this was mentioned in Vedic texts long ago."

Bagde said that several inventions, be it electricity or airplanes, find a mention in our historical texts, including the Rigveda. He said that Maharshi Bhardwaj wrote a book mentioning airplanes, and that 50

Governor Haribhau Kisanrao Bagde was addressing the convocation of IGNOU's Regional Centre in Jaipur

years ago, NASA wrote a letter seeking this book.

The Governor said that after coming to India, the British tried to suppress Indian knowledge. "Therefore, it is important to increase the intellectual capacity of the students of the country and connect them with Indian knowledge and science," he said.

"You must have heard about Nalanda University and Taxila University. They were such that many students from all over the

world used to come there to study. There used to be Sanskrit then and no other language," Bagde said, adding that Nalanda was destroyed by Bakhtiyar Khilji but now "Nalanda is being set up with a fresh hope and will become the way it was before".

He said that continuous efforts were made to destroy Indian knowledge but they did not succeed. Describing Rajasthan as the land of warriors, the Governor said Bappa Rawal did not allow foreign invaders to come here for a hundred years.

The Governor also said that there is no "shortcut" for studies and that students should not only study books related to the syllabus but also study material related to life and the new changes taking place every day. "This will increase their intellectual capacity and they will be able to succeed in life," he said, calling for special attention to education related to Indian knowledge tradition.

**Amarnath Yatra to begin from July 3, conclude on August 9**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

THE SUPREME Court on Wednesday directed the Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ) authority to appoint Forest Research Institute (FRI) to carry out a tree census in the area.

A bench of Justices Abhay Oka and N Kotwal Singh said penal provisions against violators could not be implemented sans data of existing trees.

The TTZ, an area of 10,400 square-kilometres approximately, spreads across Agra, Firozabad, Mathura, Hathras and Etah districts in UP and Bharatpur district in Rajasthan.

This data can be made available through tree census. We direct TTZ authority to appoint Forest Research Institute at Dehradun as an authority to carry out tree census of all existing trees in the area of TTZ. The formal order shall be passed within a week," the bench said.

**S C asks FRI to carry out tree census in Taj Trapezium Zone**

The apex court said the object of the UP Protection of Trees Act, 1976 was to protect the trees and not to fell or cut the trees. Without a tree census there cannot be any effective implementation of the provisions of 1976 Act, it said.

The top court had previously outlined the need for a census of trees and to ensure there is no illegal felling of trees.

"Prima facie, we are of the view that there needs to be a census of existing trees in the Taj Trapezium Zone and there needs to be a mechanism for keeping a vigil for ensuring that there is no unauthorised felling of trees," the bench said.

The bench was hearing a plea over the unauthorised felling of trees in the TTZ.

The plea raises environmental concerns and underlines the need for preservation of historical monuments, including the UNESCO World Heritage Site The Taj Mahal, and its surrounding areas.

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## BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer (Project - East),  
Nethaji Subhash Chandra Bose Building (PUB),  
21st Floor, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bengaluru - 560001.

No: EE/P-E/tend/11/2024-25 Date: 05-03-2025

### INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) (Single & Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer (Project - East Division), East Zone, BBMP invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in BBMP / KPWD / CPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the Construction of works detailed below.

#### (Standard Tender Document - KW-1 & KW-4)

Sl. No.	Name of the Works / Category
1	Estimate for face lifting, Repairs, up-gradation and other necessary works to Murphy Town School at Murph road, Halasuru in ward no. 80. (Call-2) / (SC). <b>Estimated Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs): 15.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 18,750/-</b>
2	Estimate for face lifting, Repairs, up-gradation and other necessary works to Murphy Road Nursery School at works colony, Halasuru in ward no. 89. (Call-2). / (SC) <b>Estimated Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs): 09.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 11,250/-</b>
3	Construction of Shishuvihar Primary School at Maya Bazar slum, near Austin Town, Bangalore-51. (Call-2). / (Others) <b>Estimated Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs): 140.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 2,10,000/-</b>

**Calendar of Events:** 1) The Tender Documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> from 07-03-2025. 2) Last Date for Uploading the Filled Tender Document is 17-03-2025 upto 4.00 PM. 3) Date of Opening of the Technical Bid Tenders is 18-03-2025 after 04.30 PM. Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Project - East Division), BBMP.

आयुर्वेद शिक्षण एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान (आईटीआरए),  
आयुष मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, आयुर्वेद कैप्स, जम्मनगर

योग पाठ्यक्रमों के विद्यार्थियों के लिए सूचना

इस विज्ञापि के द्वारा संबंधित सभी को यह सूचित किया जाता है कि, ITRA, Jamnagar में Diploma in Naturopathy Yoga (Ayurved) (H.E.) - D.Nat एवं Post Graduation Diploma in Yoga & Naturopathy - PGDYN के पाठ्यक्रमों में जो आवार वर्ष २०२३ या उससे पहले पंजीकृत हुए हैं और किसी भी कारणवश संबंधित पाठ्यक्रम पूर्ण नहीं कर पाये हैं, ऐसे यात्रों को शेष परीक्षा देने के लिए अक्टूबर २०२५ (October-2025) तक अंतिम दो प्रयत्न दिये जाएंगे, जिसके पश्चात संबंधित अभ्यासक्रम से उनका पंजीकरण(Enrollment) रद्द किया जाएगा। अतः यो आवार उक्त परीक्षा में उपस्थित रहना चाहते हैं उन्हें संस्थान का त्वरित संपर्क करने के लिए सूचित किया जाता है।  
उपरोक्त संबंधित परिपत्र ITRA की वेब साइट <https://itra.ac.in/circular-notices> पर जानकारी हेतु उपलब्ध है।

## सार्वजनिक सूचना

### ग्रेट नोएडा औद्योगिक विकास

भूखण्ड संख्या-1, सेक्टर-नॉले आर्क-4, ग्रेट नोएडा सिटी जिला गोलांग बुद्ध नगर

दिनांक: 06/03/2025

ग्रेट नोएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण द्वारा के अन्तर्गत M/s

Ocean Infraheight Pvt. Ltd. के भूखण्ड संख्या-11 सेक्टर-टेक्नो-04 ग्रेट नोएडा को दिनांक 25.08.2021 को पुनरीक्षित मालवित्र स्वीकृति प्रदान की गयी थी। तदोपरान्त विकासकर्ता द्वारा (Tower-T1, Tower-T2, Block-A1, Block-B1,

Block-B2, Block-C1) का अधिभेद प्रमाण पत्र (Occupancy Certificate) हेतु दिनांक 08.10.2024 को ऑलनाला द्वारा के माध्यम से आवेदन किया गया है, जिसका आवेदन संख्या CC-9067 है, तत्काल में UP Apartment Act 2010, Amendment 2016 in Section-4 Sub Section-B, के अन्तर्गत परियोजना के आवंटियों से आपत्ति/ सुझाव आमंत्रित किये जाने का प्राविधिक है। इस सम्बन्ध में विकासकर्ता द्वारा प्रस्तुत कार्यपूर्ति मानवित्र एवं Declarations of UP Apartment Act 2010 का परीक्षण किसी भी कार्य दिवस में सुबह 9.30 से सायं 6.00 बजे के मध्य नियोजन विभाग में तथा प्राधिकरण की वेबसाइट पर किया जा सकता है।

अतः उपरोक्त परियोजना के आवंटियों द्वारा Completion Map एवं

Declarations of UP Apartment Act 2010 के सम्बन्ध में सूचना

प्रकाशित करने के 30 दिनों के अन्दर आपत्तिया/सुझाव आमंत्रित की जाती है। उपरोक्त के लिहितार्थ अपनी आपत्तिया लिखित रूप से अपने आवंटन पत्र, नाम, पता एवं दूरभाष नम्रत के साथ कार्यालय, भूखण्ड

संख्या-1, नॉले आर्क-04, ग्रेट नोएडा में स्थित नियोजन विभाग में सूचना प्रकाशित होने के 30 दिवसों के अन्दर जमा करायी जा सकती है।

महाप्रबन्धक (नियोजन/वास्तु) ग्रेट नोएडा प्राधिकरण

**Delhi Tourism & Transportation Development Corporation Limited**  
(A Government of Delhi undertaking)

18-A, DDA SCO Complex, Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024

### Notice Inviting Tender

(Transport Division)

E-tender is invited for Hiring AC & Non-A/C Coaches, Mini Coaches and Innova for operation of various tours of the corporation through e-procurement system of GNCTD for a period of two years.

Tender ID-2025\_DTTDC\_269026\_1

E-tender forms with other terms & conditions can be downloaded from <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in> web portal of GNCTD and on the website of DTTDC at <http://delhitourism.gov.in>

Corrigendum, if any will appear only at <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

Last date for bid submission is 18.03.2025 by 3.00 pm

General Manager  
Delhi Tourism

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**

Tender Notice No.: AGC-ELG-T-29-2024-25 Date: 03.03.2025

### E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (General) N.C. Railway, Agron behalf of President of India invites "Open Tender" through online only (E-Tendering) for the following works.

Name of work with its location & Completion Period: Electrification work for Provision of Automatic Block Signalling works on 3rd & 4th line in MTJ-PWL section of Agra Division of North Central Railway

Completion Period: 08 months

Approx. Cost of the work: ₹ 3762343.62

For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://ireps.gov.in) Tenders can only be submitted through web portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) upto 15:00 hrs on 31.03.2025.

416/25(A)

f. North central railways | @CPNRNC | [www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in)

**PUBLIC NOTICE FOR LOSS OF REGISTERED SALE DEED**

Notice is hereby given to the Public that the registered sale deed no. 18457 dated 08<sup>th</sup> 2005, executed between SH. ANUMOD SHARMA, s/o Late Sh. V.D. Sharma (THE VENDOR), M/s. Clarion Properties Limited (THE CO-VENDOR) and M/s. Clarion Hotels Pvt. Ltd. (The VENDEE) for the commercial space on different floors in the said commercial Complex known as THE GALAXY situated at village Sitolkhera, Tehsil and District: Gurgaon, Haryana, has been lost/ misplaced.

All persons are hereby unequivocally informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said missing document. If anyone has already carried out or is going to carry out any proposed transaction, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days from the present publication.

Sd/- ANUBHAV SHARMA

Place: Gurgaon

32nd Milestone, NH - 08, Sector - 15 - Part - II,

Gurgaon, Haryana - 122001 M: 9311755675

Date: 04.03.2025

**RECOVERY & LEGAL SECTION, REGIONAL OFFICE**

Dumri Road, Gobarsahi, Muzaffarpur, Dist - Muzaffarpur, Bihar- 842002, Mob: 8437350570

E-AUCTION Sale Notice for Sale of immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged / hypothecated/ Pledged / charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive / physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Canara Bank will be sold on. "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on 24.03.2025. Details are as under:

</div

## When SC defined equality in union worker's case

In this series, *The Indian Express* tracks down the women and men who reshaped the Republic

ADRIJA ROYCHOWDHURY & APURVA VISHWANATH

NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

**WHO WAS Anwar Ali Sarkar?** A freedom fighter? A member of a mob? A union worker? While there are few references to him in court records or history books, it's a name that is immortalised as the respondent in Appeal No. 297 in a landmark Supreme Court ruling of 1952 on the right to equality.

While striking down a law which fast-tracked his case and tried him in a special court, the apex court said that the move fell foul of the right to equality under Article 14 of the Constitution. The court also for the first time spelt out the nature of the right and how it works.

On February 26, 1949, Sarkar was part of a mob of 50 young men who attacked the Jessop factory, an engineering company in Dum Dum, killing three European supervisory staff. Court records show that the victims were "battered to death and their corpses were thrown into blazing furnaces."

In what was a coordinated attack led by the Revolutionary Communist Party of India (RCPI), a breakaway group of the Communist Party of India (CPI), mobs also captured the Dum Dum airport, where they set a plane on fire, and attacked an

**Bihar cop's gun stolen from home when he was out chasing thieves**

HIMANSHU HARSH

PATNA, MARCH 5

HE SET out to catch a bike thief, little expecting to become a burglary victim himself. A sub-inspector in Bihar's Bhagalpur has alleged his flat was burgled when he was out on patrol duty Sunday night.

In an FIR registered based on the complaint, the policeman, Kanhaiya Kumar, claimed that while on duty Sunday night, he felt the need to relieve himself and returned to the rented accommodation that he shared with his wife near Rani Talab.

"Once home, I locked my service pistol along with 35 rounds of ammunition in the almirah," the FIR said. Soon after, he got a call about a motorcycle theft and left home, forgetting to take his gun and ammunition.

When he returned after his shift, he found the lock broken and the house ransacked, the FIR says, adding there was nobody home at the time of the incident.

"As I approached, the lock on my room door was also broken and so was the lock of the almirah," he said in the FIR. "Upon close inspection, I found that my service pistol, 35 rounds of ammunition, a government-issued laptop, a personal laptop, and some jewellery, including a gold chain, a locket, a ring, and some silver utensils missing," he said in the complaint, adding that about ₹5,000 in cash and his wife's education certificates were also stolen.

"We are interrogating several suspects. Raids are being conducted to recover the stolen weapon and other items. We will also be taking departmental action over the officer's negligence," SSP Hriday Kant said.

ammunition factory and shot the sentry. Some of the raiders fled to Basirhat, where they attacked a police station, killed two guards and looted about 26 rifles. The "most regrettable incident" led to a diplomatic row and was discussed in the House of Lords in London.

Acting swiftly to mitigate international tensions, the West Bengal government on August 17, 1949, promulgated the Special Courts Ordinance, a law that called for swift trials in special cases. Special courts set up under this law could conduct the trial without the presence of the accused and even refuse to summon key witnesses. Sarkar was arrested on October 11.

On January 25, 1950, just a day before the new Constitution came into force, it was notified that *King v Anwar Ali Sarkar* would be heard under the Special Courts law.

Court records show that the prosecution alleged that Sarkar was a member of the Executive Committee of the Union of workers of Jessop & Co, and took a leading part in the workers' agitation against retrenchment and for Puja bonus. The defence, however, argued that he wasn't present at the spot.

On March 31, 1950, S.N. Guha Roy, then Sessions Judge of Alipore, awarded Ali and 49 others a sentence of "transportation for life", a punishment that involved sending a convict to exile or banishment. Under colonial laws, dissidents of the State were routinely given punishments that included sending them to 'Kala Pani' in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

In an appeal filed in the Calcutta High Court, Anwar Ali Sarkar invoked Article 14 of the Constitution that guaranteed his right to equality before the law and equal protection of the law and sought to be treated like an ordinary criminal and thus tried in an ordinary court and not a special one only because he had killed white men.

Sir Arthur Trevor Harries, an Englishman who was then Chief Justice of the High Court, agreed with the petition. The HC held that while "classes of offences" or "classes of cases" could be referred to the special courts, only referring "cases" is violative of Article 14. For example, sexual assault cases are currently tried in special, fast-track courts, but the government cannot pick one

**75 YEARS  
IN  
RESHAPING THE  
REPUBLIC  
CASE BY LANDMARK CASE**  
**AN EXPRESS SERIES**

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case, however gruesome, and try it under a different procedure.

As the State went in appeal to the Supreme Court, it was veteran lawyer N.C. Chatterjee, a Hindu Mahasabha leader and father of former Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee who argued for Sarkar and the other communists.

In a Republic that had placed its hope in the Constitution, the judgment and the conviction jarred and the case ended up being an opportunity to truly decolonise the legal system. Like Chatterjee, many other legal stalwarts picked the brief for similar cases. Hyderabad and Mysore states, which had similar laws on special courts, mounted a concerted effort along with then Attorney General for India M.C. Setalvad.

On January 11, 1952, in a 6:1 ruling, the Supreme Court upheld the Calcutta High Court rul-

**1952  
STATE OF WEST BENGAL V. ANWAR ALI SARKAR**

**CASE:** In 1949, Anwar Ali Sarkar, a member of the Revolutionary Communist Party of India, and 49 others killed three Europeans at Jessop factory in Kolkata where he was a union worker. Sarkar was tried in a Special Court for speedy disposal. He argued that this violated his right to equality as the Special Courts Act, 1950, allowed the state

government to bypass the ordinary trial procedure without a reasonable justification. The Supreme Court struck down the Act. **RELEVANCE TODAY:** This ruling is the first to establish the "reasonable classification" test, which dictates that a law can provide an exception to the right to equality and apply to a specific class of people.

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ing in the Anwar Ali case and struck down the Special Courts Act for failing foul of the right to equality. The ruling was one of the rare instances in which the Chief Justice of India, Patanjali Sastry, was the sole dissent.

Justice Vivian Bose said in the judgment, "We find men accused of heinous crimes called upon to answer for their lives and liberties. We find them picked out from their fellows, and however much the new procedure may give them a few crumbs of advantage, in the bulk they are deprived of substantial and valuable privileges of defence which others, similarly charged, are able to claim...The question with which I charge myself is, can fair-minded, reasonable unbiased and resolute men, who are not swayed by emotion or prejudice, regard...it as that equal treatment and pro-

tection in the defence of liberties which is expected of a sovereign democratic republic in the conditions which obtain in India today? I have but one answer to that. On that short and simple ground I would decide this case and hold the Act bad."

The ruling became the foundation for the "reasonable classification" test under Article 14 that is now applied almost as second nature. The test dictates when a law can provide an exception to the right to equality and apply to a specific class of people. However, the classification must be based on "intelligible differentia" (clear reasons for singling out that class of people) and must have a "rational relation" to the object of the law.

The ruling also underscored that the lofty protections of the Constitution must extend even to ordinary citizens.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Rohit De, Associate Professor of History at Yale University, said that it did not matter who Anwar Ali Sarkar was for the court to recognise his rights. It was clear, he said, that Sarkar and his fellow detainees were not high-profile Communist leaders but just ordinary citizens. "Nor were they being suppressed because of their views. They had carried out a brutal attack, killing people. It was far from being a sympathetic case," he said.

His name, however, continues to be invoked with every plea for equality and equal protection under the Constitution.

# Bofors case: CBI sends request to US, seeks info from pvt sleuth

Letter Rogatory sent in February, process begun in October last year

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
**NEW DELHI, MARCH 5**

THE CBI has made a judicial request to the US after sending a Letter Rogatory (LR), requesting information from private investigator Michael Hersman, who had expressed willingness to share with Indian agencies crucial details about the ₹64 crore Bofors case.

An LR is a written request sent by the court of one country to the court of another to obtain assistance in the investigation or prosecution of a criminal matter.

A source said the process to send the LR was initiated on October 14 last year, and it was sent in February after approval from the court concerned. CBI has also informed the special court hearing the agency's plea for further probe into the alleged bribery case about recent developments.

On March 18, 1986, India signed a ₹1,437 crore deal with Swedish arms manufacturer AB Bofors for the supply of 400 155 mm Howitzer guns for the Army. A year later, on April 16, 1987, a Swedish radio channel alleged that the company had bribed top Indian politicians and defence personnel to secure the contract.

CBF appealed against the 2005 decision in Supreme Court in 2018 but the plea was dismissed on the grounds of delay. The SC, however, allowed it to raise all the points in an appeal filed by advocate Ajay Aggarwal in 2005.

Hersman, head of the Fairfax Group, visited India in 2017 to attend a conference of private detectives. During his stay, he appeared on various platforms, alleging that the investigation into the scam was derailed by Congress government and stated he was willing to share details with CBI. The agency took note of his claims in several interviews and announced in 2017 that the matter would be investigated according to due process.

Earlier, CBI had informed the special court that following Hersman's revelations, it plans to reopen the probe. The agency had previously also sent letters and reminders to US authorities on November 8, 2023, December 21, 2023, May 13, 2024, and August 14, 2024, but received no information, with the US authorities requesting additional time.

**At Kerala CPM state meet today, focus on how to retain power**

**SHAJU PHILIP**

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,  
MARCH 5

Delhi HC rejects plea against order granting Bhatkal aide phone facility

SOHINI GHOSH  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

**REFUSING** TO entertain a petition by Delhi's DG of prisons against a trial court order granting an associate of Indian Mujahideen's co-founder Yasin Bhatkale e-mulakat and phone facilities, the Delhi High Court said the plea was not maintainable as the accused was availing e-mulakat/telephone facilities prior to April 22, 2024.

At Tihar jail, accused Asadullah Akhtar was availing phone and e-mulakat facilities. Later, he was shifted to Mandoli jail.

Akhtar, a "high risk prisoner", was awarded the death penalty for the 2013 Dilsukhnagar twin blasts that killed 18 people. He is facing trial for charges under IPC and UAPA in a 2012 NIA case.

On March 3, dismissing the plea, Justice Jasmeet Singh orally remarked, "Please understand the plight of prisoners... let's not make it an ego problem." Justice Singh also said in the order whether the trial court is vested with the power to pass such orders "is not required to be adjudicated", adding that the state is at liberty to avail appropriate remedies.

The state had challenged the Patiala House sessions court order of September 21, 2024 granting phone facilities/e-mulakat facility to Akhtar pending verification by jail authorities.

The state, in its plea, contended that the sessions court "acted in excess of the powers vested" in it as "administrative matters pertaining to the governance of prisons cannot be subject to judicial scrutiny by a court that does not bear any constitutional powers," and thus could not have granted availing of phone/e-mulakat facilities to Akhtar.

The prison authorities contended that circulars issued in September and December 2022 and April and May 2024 by the Tihar headquarters, it is mandatory that for inmate phone and e-mulakat facilities under Rules 631, Delhi Prison Rules, 2018, an NOC has to be taken from the concerned agency.

# 11 madrasas sealed in Dehradun, Muslim bodies say drive illegal

AISWARYA RAJ  
DEHRADUN, MARCH 5

**FOLLOWING** AN order by the district administration on February 28, authorities have sealed 11 madrasas in Dehradun, citing non-registration with the state madrasa board or the education department.

In January, before the local body elections, the state government ordered a verification drive and data from Dehradun was made public. The Dehradun District Magistrate, Savin Bansal, had stated that Sadar Dehradun tehsil had 16 unregistered and eight registered madrasas, Vikasnagar tehsil had 34 unregistered and 27 registered ones, Doiwala had one registered and six unregistered madrasas, and Kalsi had a single unregistered madrasa.

According to the Sub-District Magistrate of Vikasnagar tehsil, Vinod Kumar, nine madrasas have been sealed since March 3. The other two institutions are in Doiwala and Sadar. "Last

November, I submitted a report to the district administration that madrasas were running without registering with the departments concerned. A team comprising the education, minority welfare, revenue departments and the police was formed for inspection. Following this, a report was submitted, and it was found that 20 madrasas in Vikasnagar were operating without registration," he said.

"After the inspection, a few madrasas compiled and registered with the departments. After raids were conducted following a DM order on February 28, we sealed nine madrasas after violations were found," Kumar said.

After the Dehradun District Magistrate submitted a report stating that 57 madrasas in the district are running without registration, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said that authorities would look into the "source of funding and the origins of such institutions".

As the sealing exercise was being carried out, Muslim groups

staged a protest in the city.

President of Muslim Sewa Sangathan, Naeem Qureshi, said, "No recognition is required to operate a madrasa. The sealing is illegal because no order or notice was given to the managers of the madrasas before they were sealed. They have not explained the grounds. We carried out a protest at the collectorate on Tuesday and one today at the Mussoorie Dehradun Development Authority for illegally sealing a mosque. We submitted a memorandum as well. We said that if they do not stop this illegal sealing, we will protest outside the secretariat."

Though a state-wide inspection was carried out by the DMs of all 13 districts, the findings are yet to be made public.

Recognised madrasas come under the state boards for madrasa education, while unrecognised ones follow the curriculum prescribed by the bigger seminaries such as the Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulama and Darul Uloom Deoband.

The Uttar Pradesh govern-

ment had initiated an inspection of madrasas in the state, which the Uttarakhand government had emulated.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Uttarakhand Madrasa Board chairman Mufti Shamoom Qasmi said the exercise is to merge these students with the "mainstream". "Since February 28, we have approved 'recognition' to 51 madrasas out of 88 applications. The madrasas need to comply with norms, and the children should be allowed to follow modernity. We have initiated the NCERT curriculum so they can get mainstream education along with religious education. The madrasas need to register with either the madrasa board or the education department," he said.

He said that Sanskrit will also soon be an option, and they have proposed it to the education department since it is the second language of the state. "As soon as the education department gets us teachers, we will kickstart this. Our aim is that the kids know the culture of others," he said.

## Kokane gets relief from court after conviction in fraud case

**Mumbai:** In a relief for Maharashtra Agriculture Minister Manikrao Kokane, a sessions court in Nashik on Wednesday temporarily stayed his conviction in a housing fraud case.

Kokane and his brother were found guilty on charges of cheating and forgery by a magistrate court in Nashik on February 20, for which they were sentenced to two years in jail. As a result of the stay, the detailed order of which is yet to be made available, Kokane will not be disqualified from the Legislative Assembly.

As per the Representation of People Act, a legislature member is disqualified if convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for not less than two years. ENS



## CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

President Droupadi Murmu with Union Ministers Jual Oram, Giriraj Singh and Gajendra Singh Shekhawat during the inauguration of the second edition of Vividhata Ka Amrit Mahotsav at Rashtrapati Bhavan, Wednesday. PTI

## Akhilesh hits back at Yogi over Ansal Group issue

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
LUCKNOW, MARCH 5

A DAY after Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath targeted the Samajwadi Party (SP) over its alleged links with the real estate developer Ansal Group, after which an FIR was registered against M/s Ansal Properties & Infrastructure Ltd and its promoters, SP president Akhilesh Yadav Wednesday said, "If everything was wrong, why did you go there for the inauguration instead of sending a bulldozer?"

During a discussion on the Budget in the state Assembly on

Tuesday, Adityanath said that all its assets would be seized if Ansal Group had defrauded even a single homebuyer. He emphasised that the culprits would be tracked down and would face strict punishment. The CM also accused the SP of shielding the Ansal Group and said the company was a product of the erstwhile SP government. He alleged that during the SP's rule, Ansal's illegal demands were met at the cost of investors and homebuyers, who were cheated. While claiming that the SP government had extended undue favors to Ansal, the CM Yogi highlighted that his government had cur-

tailed these privileges and begun cornering the company.

Reacting to the issue, Akhilesh Yadav posted on X that to hide their failures, people often invoke someone else's name, forgetting that they themselves inaugurated the mall and hospital in the city named after that very person. "They also hosted G20 guests at a newly built hotel in the same grand complex—the very place where billions of rupees in real investment have flowed," he wrote.

Yadav also hit out at the BJP government in the state, saying that 'levelling allegations at investors and discouraging them

will neither promote investment nor benefit the state". The discerning people of Uttar Pradesh are asking—if everything was wrong... Why did you arrive for the inauguration?

He also said on X that the public is saying if they are willing to dig deep, they should also examine the real reason their throne is shaking. The widespread talk of their possible ouster is fueling their frustration. The fear of displacement is echoing in their loud rhetoric.

On Tuesday evening, the Lucknow police registered an FIR against M/s Ansal Properties & Infrastructure Ltd and others including Pranav Ansal, Sushil

Ansal, Sunil Kumar Gupta, Vinay Kumar Singh and Francette Patricia Atkinson.

They were booked for allegedly being involved in large-scale "irregularities" in the development of a high-tech township project along the Lucknow-Sultanpur road. They are reportedly accused of conspiring to defraud the public and government by selling land illegally, misappropriating public property and engaging in organised crime. They are also accused of reportedly being engaged in misconduct, threatening authority personnel and failing to comply with directives by RERA and other agencies.

## Amid row over 1931 'martyrs', BJP MLAs walk out of J&K House

ARUN SHARMA  
JAMMU, MARCH 5

THE BJP MLAs walked out of the J&K Assembly Wednesday after Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather announced expunging of "derogatory remarks" of the Leader of Opposition and BJP leader Sunil Sharma about the July 13, 1931 "martyrs" amid ruckus in the House.

During a discussion on the motion of thanks to the address of L-G Manoj Sinha in the House, PDP legislator Waheed-ur-Rehman Para demanded the restoration of public holidays on July 13 in the memory of the "martyrs" killed by Maharaja Hari Singh's forces in Kashmir, and December 5, the birth anniversary of National Conference founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah. This prompted Sharma's remark on the 1931 "martyrs".

Both holidays were scrapped by the LG-led administration after the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019 and replaced with September 23, Maharaja Hari Singh's birthday, and October 26, the day the Maharaja signed the Instrument of Accession in 1947.

Para described July 13

protests as "not communal" but a "significant moment" in democratic history of J&K, adding that "it was a day of resistance against monarchy and lives were sacrificed for that cause". "Unless the lives lost on July 13 are acknowledged and the holiday is restored, the BJP will not be able to do justice to the people of J&K."

LoP Sharma said anything spoken against Maharaja Hari Singh will not be tolerated. "I can feel the pain of Para after his party's performance (in Assembly elections). You are enjoying the state of Maharaja (Hari Singh)...," he said, triggering protests from Treasury Benches led by NC, PDP and several others, demanding that he retract his remarks.

Para asked why they did not shed tears when civilians were killed in police action to quell violence during both the NC and PDP dispensations. Amid protests, the Speaker expunged "derogatory remarks" by Sharma, prompting all 28 BJP MLA to walk out.

Later, People's Conference leader and MLA Sajad Gani Lone urged the Assembly to pass a resolution seeking restoration of public holidays for both the Martyrs' Day and the birth anniversary of Sheikh Abdullah.



## पिछड़ा वर्ग एवं अति पिछड़ा वर्ग कल्याण विभाग मुख्यमंत्री व्यवसायिक पाठ्यक्रम मार्गदर्शन एवं उत्प्रेरण योजना

पिछड़ा वर्ग एवं अति पिछड़ा वर्ग के छात्र/छात्राओं के लिए राज्य के 10 संचालित केन्द्रों में निःशुल्क प्रशिक्षण (कोचिंग)

प्रत्येक व्यवसायिक पाठ्यक्रम मार्गदर्शन एवं उत्प्रेरण केन्द्र पर 60–60 (कुल—120) छात्र छात्राओं के दो बैच (प्रशिक्षण अवधि—6 माह) संचालित है। उपलब्ध सीटों में पिछड़ा वर्ग के लिए 40 प्रतिशत एवं अति पिछड़ा वर्ग के लिए 60 प्रतिशत सीट अनुमान्य है। दोनों कोटियों में छात्राओं के लिए 33 प्रतिशत क्षेत्रिज आरक्षण अनुमान्य है।

### छात्र/छात्राओं के लिए सुविधा:-

- छात्र-छात्राओं को 75 प्रतिशत उपस्थिति के आधार पर ₹3,000/- (तीन हजार रुपये) मात्र की दर से प्रोत्साहन राशि।
- डिजिटल अध्ययन केंद्र।
- केंद्रस्तरीय पाश्चिम एवं राज्यस्तरीय जाँच परीक्षा।
- उन्नत पुस्तकालय।
- प्रेरणा एवं मार्गदर्शन सत्र।

### पात्रता:-

- छात्र/छात्राएं विहार राज्य के स्थायी निवासी हों।
- पिछड़ा वर्ग अथवा अति पिछड़ा वर्ग के सदस्य हों।
- छात्र/छात्र की आय सहित उनके अभिभावक की अधिकतम वार्षिक अद्यतन आय सभी स्रोतों को मिलाकर ₹०—३,००,०००/- तक होनी चाहिए।
- छात्र/छात्र की आयु सीमा एवं न्यूनतम शैक्षणिक योग्यता संबंधित कोर्स के अंतर्गत होने वाली प्रतियोगिता परीक्षा के लिए निर्धारित न्यूनतम अहेता के अनुरूप होनी चाहिए।

योजना से संबंधित विस्तृत जानकारी तथा दिशा निर्देश विभागीय वेबसाइट <https://bcebconline.bihar.gov.in> पर उपलब्ध है।

TO KEEP TRACK ON NEWS

## Maharashtra to spend ₹10 crore on media monitoring centre

ing published.

The centre will use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to keep a tab on fake or misleading news as that could create unrest in the state.

A professional and private consulting agency will compile and analyse the news items, which include PDF files of paper cuttings on important developments. It will be classified as positive/negative, department, subject, incident wise and individual personality. News items and information on electronic, digital mediums will be monitored every hour to analyse the trend, mood and tone, based on which alerts will be given.

The centre will work from 8 am to 10 pm and will give updates on regular interval. During this, it will generate reports under subject, district, division, incident and individual categories on daily, weekly and monthly basis. A dashboard will be set up as well as mobile application will be established. The centre will also analyse and prepare report on public response to government policies and schemes.

As per the GR, the Directorate General of Information and Public Relations (DGIPR) will prepare a detailed project report (DPR). The DGIPR will also study similar model, if any, established by other states.

Goa BJP leader accuses govt of corruption, says 'ministers busy counting money'

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA  
PANAJI, MARCH 5

BJP LEADER and former Goa Transport Minister Pandurang Madalkar Tuesday said that the ministers in the ruling BJP government are "busy in counting money".

He also said that he recently paid a bribe to the PA of a minister to process his file.

Madalkar, who served as a minister in the Manohar Parrikar-led Cabinet, made these remarks after he met BJP national general secretary (organisation) BL Santhosh in Panaji. Santhosh on Tuesday met with several MLAs and party leaders in Goa to assess the party's work.

"I will tell you very frankly, it's not corruption, it's loot. Loot is going on in Goa... All Ministers are busy in counting money," Madalkar said.

"Last week, I paid ₹15 to 20 lakh to one minister for a small work. He took one file... home and left a message that if someone comes to inquire about that file, tell that fellow to come and meet me... So, I know what procedures are followed in that department," he said.

Madalkar said he did not want to name the said Minister, adding "...but when I leave the party, I will take the name."

to monitor its implementation as well as a massive awareness campaign, claiming that the state has introduced real-time surveillance to track trends and effectiveness of these interventions".

The reply also pointed out that except for Srinagar, Udhampur, Ramban, Kishtwar and Samba districts, the other districts witnessed a downward trend in drug addiction cases.

However, the minister's response left neither the Treasury nor the Opposition bench satisfied, with legislators cutting across party lines calling for an experts panel and a House Committee for an in-depth examination of the problem.

IoD initially opposed further discussion citing her detailed response to the question. However, the Speaker, Abdul Rahim Rather, insisted on a 30-minute debate in the House to allow members present their suggestions.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
S.R. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP/AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP/AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL

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## AIMING HIGH

India needs deeper, wider reforms to ensure the sustained higher growth needed to become a high income country

**I**N 2007-08, INDIA was classified as a low middle income country. India then had a per capita income of \$1,022 as per the International Monetary Fund. By 2024, more than a decade-and-a-half later, the average individual income is estimated to have risen to \$2,697 as per the Fund. In 2024-25, the per capita income required to transition from low middle income to upper middle income status has been pegged at \$4,516 by the World Bank. Going by current projections — the IMF expects the country's per capita income to rise to \$4,195 by 2029 — India is unlikely to enter this category by the end of the decade. But, as per the World Bank, India is on track to become an upper middle income economy by 2032. The challenge, however, is to become a high income developed country by 2047.

This is a daunting task. Over the past several decades, only a handful of countries such as South Korea, Czech Republic and Romania have been able to transition from middle income to high income status. Several others such as Brazil, South Africa, Malaysia, have been unable to make this transition. These countries have been caught in the "middle income trap". The question is: Can India escape the fate of these countries? In a recent economic memorandum titled 'Becoming a high-income economy in a generation', the World Bank estimates that India would need to grow at 7.8 per cent over the coming decades to become a high income country by 2047. To put this growth in perspective — the country grew at 6.7 per cent over the two decades prior to the Covid pandemic. Thus, a business-as-usual scenario, while it may lead to "tangible welfare gains", will not suffice to deliver such high growth consistently over such a long period.

The Bank has outlined the policy agenda required to achieve this. This revolves on promoting structural transformation, increasing investments, facilitating the creation of more productive jobs, technology adoption, and enabling states to grow faster. Its "accelerated reforms" scenario envisages the investment to GDP ratio rising to 40 per cent by 2035, the female labour force participation rate increasing to 55 per cent by 2050, and higher productivity. The investment to GDP ratio is currently around 33 per cent, with subdued private investments. The female labour force participation, while rising sharply over the past few years, is at 41.7 per cent (15 years and above). And rather than exiting agriculture, more are now employed in the sector — the percentage of workers engaged in the farm sector has risen to 46.1 per cent in 2023-24 from 44.1 per cent in 2017-18. Putting India on a sustained higher growth trajectory will require deeper and wide-ranging reforms by both central and state governments.

## CRIME &amp; ACCOUNTABILITY

Maharashtra Minister Munde's resignation is welcome. Law must take its course in murder case that is casting a long shadow

**L**AST MONTH, AT a Loksatta event, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis spoke of his government's position on corruption: "I am not saying political extortion is rampant. But wherever middle-level leaders are indulging in 'dadagiri' it will be dealt with firmly..." With the resignation of Food and Civil Supplies minister Dhananjay Munde from his post a day after the Budget Session, ostensibly on grounds of ill health, but actually in the shadow of a case of brutal murder, the CM seems to be walking the talk, even if belatedly. Ever since the killing of Santosh Deshmukh, the 45-year-old sarpanch of Beed's Massajog village on December 9, for trying to stop an extortion bid on a windmill energy project, accusations have singed Munde. Beed has long been a Munde stronghold, and his close aide, Walmik Karad, is among the prime accused in the case. The minister's resignation is welcome.

For a government that came to power in November with an overwhelming mandate and assurances of tackling the real challenges facing people — unemployment, agrarian distress, issues of law and order, including corruption and women's safety — a crime such as this one has a troubling fallout. Already under fire following the rape of a 26-year-old in a Pune bus stand, the attack on actor Saif Ali Khan and the conviction of another NCP minister, Manikrao Kokate, in a housing fraud case, now temporarily stayed, the delay in action in the Deshmukh case draws unflattering attention to the new Mahayuti government. Videos of the abduction and torture of Deshmukh went public on Monday. Munde's resignation raises questions about his induction in the first place — the cabinet expansion that gave him a ministerial berth took place on December 14, five days after the murder and three days after the FIR naming Karad was filed.

There are economic fallout to consider as well. In 2024, Maharashtra ranked 13th in India for ease of doing business. As CM, in his first foreign assignment to the World Economic Forum in Davos in January, Fadnavis said that the state had signed 54 MoUs with investments worth Rs 15.75 lakh crore and that about 98 per cent of it would be through FDI. In a state starved of employment opportunities, this would work out to 16 lakh new jobs and an opportunity to reinforce its position as an economic powerhouse. Incidents of organised extortion and the suggestion of political patronage can spark apprehensions that stand in the way of realising such opportunities. The work of transparency and accountability in governance has to continue beyond Munde's resignation.

## MAMMOTH PROBLEM

Scientists have unveiled the woolly mouse, a precursor to bringing back the woolly mammoth. The question is: Why?

**F**OR ABOUT TWO years now, people have been promised a discount Jurassic Park, come to life. The woolly mammoth, which has been extinct for about 4,000 years, has been on the verge of being "brought back". The company that is seeking to achieve this feat has received much publicity for its claims. Perhaps that's why, to sat an eager public, it has "created" woolly mice as a trailer to the much larger main attraction in years to come. But, as science imitates science fiction, it might do well to look at the lessons from the latter.

The new species — mice that sport a luxurious coat (imagine the pesky rodent with the fur of a chestnut golden retriever) — has been created through gene editing. Colossal Biosciences, the company behind the creature, has cited the criterium as further support for the case for bringing back the mammoth before the end of the decade. Questions, though, remain. First, a species isn't just about how it looks. Will "de-extinct" mammoths behave in ways that the originals did? A mammoth that doesn't act like one is just a hairy elephant. More important than the how, though, is why. Why bring back animals that have died out? Wouldn't working towards preserving the ones that are still around be a better bet?

In recent years, there has been a sense that the sci-fi future is now. Unfortunately, it often appears to be a dystopic one. Advances in AI and robotics make it seem like artificial consciousness is in the offing. While tech bros may revel at the thought, for many it's the threat of being obsolete that looms large. And that's without thinking of *The Terminator*. There are no flying cars, and EV comes with the complications of mining the minerals that make up the batteries — and where they are concentrated (think Frank Herbert's *Dune*). Perhaps, before a gene-edited mammoth is unleashed, it might be worth rewatching *Jurassic Park*.



SHYAM SARAN

HOW SHOULD WE describe the topsy-turvy world we are living in today? Children's playbooks have a "joining the dots" game, which traces an image when the dots are joined together. We are now attempting to join dots that are constantly moving and no recognisable pattern is appearing. How can one navigate an unstable and shifting geopolitical terrain where familiar landmarks and reassuring anchors vanish with bewildering rapidity? And how should one deal with the most powerful country in the world, which under Donald Trump has transitioned from being the upholder of the global order to its ruthless undertaker? During Trump 1.0, which was a much milder version of Trump 2.0, a prescient Henry Kissinger had said, "I think Trump may be one of those figures in history who appears from time to time to mark the end of an era and to force it to give up its old pretences. It doesn't necessarily mean that he knows this, or that he is considering any great alternative. It could just be an accident."

Kissinger may have been right about Trump marking the end of an era. He may not have anticipated that Trump 2.0 has a blueprint that is being rolled out both at home and abroad. If one considers the welter of ordinances issued by Trump so far and the dismantling of the federal bureaucracy by Elon Musk, who heads the new Department of Government Efficiency, the playbook seems to follow very closely the "Project 2025" document formulated by The Heritage Foundation, a right-wing, conservative think tank. Several of the authors of the report now occupy senior posts in the Trump administration. The professional bureaucracy is being replaced by a cohort of loyalists owing personal allegiance to Trump.

On the foreign policy and security front, there is also a dramatic change in direction, overturning the ideological and strategic foundations of the American state. It is no longer an internationalist liberal state. It is avowedly right-wing and seeks closer association with similar ruling dispensations and political entities in other parts of the world. It is a mistake to think that these new equations are manifested

Trump marks end of concept of a liberal West. His diplomacy is driven by older ideas of imperialism

tions of Trump being a deal-maker and transactional. He and his close lieutenants see themselves as part of an emerging global mainstream which is the antithesis of the old conception of a liberal West. There is no longer a "West" in terms that the world has been accustomed to using the term.

It is not eccentricity alone which explains Trump's sense of affinity with Vladimir Putin of Russia and even Xi Jinping of China. The readiness to do deals with them is the consequence of ideological affinity. I have also argued elsewhere that Trump seems driven by a 19th-century concept of imperialism when land became a marker of power. The US itself was an example of how the acquisition of large tracts of land in its westward expansion went hand in hand with its emergence as a major power. In this way of thinking, the US, Russia and China are great powers by virtue of being the largest countries area-wise. Each is entitled to its sphere of influence and will continue to contend but also collaborate within these parameters. Other states are pawns in this bigger game and must accept the roles assigned to them.

Ukraine's refusal to acquiesce in its role as a bargaining chip is what lies behind the US voting against a resolution at the UN which condemns Russian aggression against Ukraine. It also led to the televised brawl in the Oval Office on February 28 where Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky was subjected to a carefully choreographed assault by Trump and Vice-President J D Vance. What may have been missed is Trump openly expressing empathy for Putin as a fellow victim of a political witch-hunt during his previous term as president. It is this frame which devalues Europe as a credible power and makes its attempts to salvage the situation for Ukraine futile.

The sooner Europe acknowledges that there is no longer a West that it has been accustomed to be a part of, the more likely it would be to come together, develop its own capabilities and acquire independent agency. A fragmented Europe with each mid-size or small country having to deal with the great

powers on its own, will stop to count geopolitically. The new chancellor of Germany, Friedrich Merz, has read the situation most clearly. In remarks post the recent elections, he said, "I would never have thought that I would have to say something like this in a TV show, but after Donald Trump's remarks last week ... It is clear that this government does not care about the fate of Europe. My absolute priority will be to strengthen Europe as quickly as possible so that, step by step, we can really achieve independence from the US."

What does this mean for Asia and, in particular, India? Those who believe that a US-Russia détente will drive a wedge between China and Russia may be disappointed. The two countries have built up a solid, comprehensive and mutually supportive relationship which is unlikely to be diminished by Washington reaching out to Moscow. Trump does not see India as a big power in the same league as China and Russia. India has to be careful and ensure that it does not come to be seen as a convenient pawn for the US in the big power game. One expects that while the Quad (comprising India, Japan, Australia and the US) will continue to play a role in the Indo-Pacific, it may no longer be a strategic component of an American determination to retain its dominance in the region, but as a tactical bargaining tool vis-a-vis China. India must be alert to this shift.

It will be prudent for India to remain out of harm's way by maintaining a friendly relationship with Trump's America, being accommodating on lesser issues while quietly resisting on more critical ones. India must develop much closer relations with Europe, with countries in East and Southeast Asia and most importantly with its own sub-continental periphery, which may become a zone of strategic vulnerability. The ideological affinity which Trump shares with PM Modi is an asset for Delhi in handling a complicated relationship with Washington. But Trump's great power vision does not align with India's preference for a multipolar world order.

The writer is a former Foreign Secretary



RAMA SRINIVASAN

I AM A German citizen of Indian origin with undisputed left-liberal credentials. Given that the editorial (IE February 25, 'The New Right') on German elections and the rise of the far-right globally was on how "liberalism" need to listen without having a meltdown, I think your advice was partially targeted at me. Perhaps you did not imagine a person of colour as a German and European by choice when you wrote it. Neither do the far-right parties that you have defended. I cannot imagine holding a conversation with someone who disputes my identity — and my right — to call myself German and expects to strip me of my citizenship and re-emigrate/deport me.

The editorial is brought together by Giorgia Meloni's argument that "the Left" exposes its double standard when it dubs Trump, Meloni or Modi a threat to democracy and strives to keep them at arm's length. It conflates this amorphous Left with liberal politics in general although, in Europe, liberal mostly stands for neoliberal policies which the Left parties oppose, but far-right parties are generally in favour of. The editorial appears to deploy Indian discontents with (left-) liberal politics to analyse political developments elsewhere. As the editorial concludes, the far-right holds "multitudes" and, for this reason, such comparisons must be undertaken with extreme caution.

At the broadest level, far-right parties across the world have one thing in common: They manufacture outsiders and hold them responsible for all the challenges their countries face. These parties are doing well because communication is easier when you offer sim-

## A NAIVE FANTASY

Engaging with far-right politics isn't the solution liberal politics needs

DEAR EDITOR,  
I DISAGREE

A column in which readers tell us why, when they differ with the editorial positions or news coverage of *The Indian Express*

In their effort to work around immigration, progressive parties have failed to underline their commitment to universal human rights that the anti-immigration politics positions itself against.

## MARCH 6, 1985, FORTY YEARS AGO

## CONGRESS SWEEPS MP

THE CONGRESS (I) STORMED back to power in Madhya Pradesh by winning 161 seats in the 320-member house and was holding out the promise of putting up an equally impressive show in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, as early results of the just concluded state assembly elections poured in.

## POLL VIOLENCE

AT LEAST 22 people killed, 16 of them in Bihar, and more than 100 injured in group clashes and police firing during polling in the second and final phase of the assembly elections. In

ple solutions for increasingly complex problems. The established political parties and activists can have a conversation with them only on their terms.

Progressive parties such as the outgoing coalition in Germany may have foreclosed the possibility of a conversation — as the editorial mentions in a somewhat perplexed fashion — but they have actually addressed these concerns during their tenure with visible reluctance. The conservative parties (CDU+CSU) have, on the other hand, enthusiastically appropriated the increasingly shrill anti-immigrant rhetoric and even cooperated with the Alternative for Germany (AfD) on passing a non-binding parliamentary resolution on the issue. The famed "firewall" that had separated the established parties from those reminiscent of the country's fascist past no longer exists in practice.

The editorial is perhaps accurate in its analysis that progressive politics lack agility and imagination. In their effort to work around immigration, progressive parties have failed to underline their commitment to universal human rights that the anti-immigration politics positions itself against.

Their biggest problem is not that they have not listened to right-wing politicians, but rather that they have passively absorbed too much without articulating their position on the most pervasive political topic in Germany and Europe currently. While AfD's electoral ascendancy did not come as a surprise, *Die Linke's* (The Left) last-minute surge underlines how articulate messaging on core democratic values still has resonance in Western democ-

racies. The Left in countries like Germany and France — the real one — has not only survived but thrived.

What the political ascendancy of the far-right in the West shows is the need to offer compelling answers to the multiple crises afflicting different nation-states. Yes, parties must improve their communication strategies and speak to sections that have gravitated to them in search of solutions. But opening channels of communication is not the same as conversing with political actors who cynically manipulate said fears and pose a threat to both people and democratic institutions.

The editorial appears to endorse Meloni's view that far-right parties are unfairly labelled as threats to democracies. If its contention is to accept the shifting definitions of democracy where those working to hollow out its provisions are not to be perceived as threats as such, then the real challenge for left-liberals is to find ways to continue engaging people within the framework afforded by the constitution and the rule of law.

Such a space is shrinking in Western democracies not only for racial and ethnic minorities but also for progressive parties. The leaders of the Green Party have faced physical threats for pursuing policies they deem fit. They may or may not have the right idea, but keeping communication channels open with political actors who advocate actual physical harm appears to be a naïve fantasy.

The writer is an anthropologist and author of *Courting Desire: Litigating for Love in North India*



## WORDLY WISE

GDP IS A FUNCTION OF CAPITAL, LABOUR AND HOW PRODUCTIVELY YOU USE BOTH.

— GITA GOPINATH

## INDIA, CHAMPIONS

INDIA SWEEPED TO a seven-wicket victory over New Zealand in the World Championship of Cricket on March 5 to stand with one match of winning their second major one-day title in two years. Set a target of 207 to win under the Sydney Cricket Ground lights, India won the first semi-final with more than six overs to spare.

# THE IDEAS PAGE

## The delimitation promise

While it raises concerns about gerrymandering, delimitation is necessary to devolve power to the margins



ASHWANI KUMAR AND KHUSHBOO SRIVASTAVA

AS INDIA STANDS on the brink of the "Second Republic", the proposed delimitation has reignited the debate over the persistent paradox of the imbalance between demography and democracy. Despite its central role in the democratic theory of political equality, the process of delimitation often grapples with a lingering democratic paradox in large republics, which face the challenge of balancing conflicting territorial, demographic, ethnic, and factional political considerations.

Delimitation in India aims to ensure fair representation in Parliament by adjusting constituency boundaries in line with population changes. However, since 1976, the process has been frozen to avoid penalising states that have successfully controlled population growth, particularly in the south. As a result, states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, with much larger populations, remain under-represented compared to southern states like Tamil Nadu and Kerala, which have smaller populations but more parliamentary seats. This imbalance, referred to as malapportionment, has fuelled political tensions, with concerns that the upcoming delimitation exercise in 2029 will shift power toward the politically hegemonic North.

The Indian Constitution mandates delimitation under Article 82, with an independent Delimitation Commission implementing it. Delimitation was conducted in 1952, 1962, and 1972, but was frozen in 1976 through the 42nd Constitutional Amendment and postponed in 2001, extending the freeze until 2026. This delay has created a peculiar situation where states that have successfully controlled population growth may lose seats, while states with higher birth rates will gain more representation.

Opponents of the proposed delimitation argue that the South consistently surpasses the North across various indicators, such as per capita income, contributions to the central treasury, infrastructure, healthcare, and education. Furthermore, the South has higher urbanisation rates, lower infant mortality, and longer life expectancies. These disparities have led to claims that the South is subsidising the North, shouldering the burden of population growth, unemployment, poverty, inadequate infrastructure, and social underdevelopment. The concern is that without addressing these inequalities, delimitation could create distorted forms of intrastate inequalities in India. In this sense, if population growth in the North is not controlled or economic growth matched with the South, the delimitation process could produce a Red Queen effect.

Globally, different countries handle delimitation in various ways. For example, New Zealand and South Africa have clear constitutional provisions, while countries like India



CR Sasikumar

and Japan manage the process through ordinary legislation. The role of the courts in reviewing delimitation decisions has been an ongoing debate. In the landmark *Meghraj Kothari v Delimitation Commission* (1966) ruling, the Supreme Court upheld the finality of delimitation orders, arguing that judicial intervention could lead to indefinite election delays. More recently, the Court dismissed a petition challenging the Jammu & Kashmir delimitation, despite claims that it marginalised minority communities.

Another pressing issue is the question of women's representation. The Women's Reservation Bill (2023), which aims to reserve one-third of seats in Parliament and state assemblies for women, is directly tied to delimitation. The bill will only take effect after the next delimitation exercise, delaying meaningful gender representation until at least 2029.

Delimitation also affects Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), migrants, and other socio-religious minorities. According to Article 330(2) of the Constitution, reserved seats for SCs and STs should be proportional to their population in each state. However, since the seat allocation still relies on the 2001 Census, communities that have grown significantly since then remain underrepresented. For example, the Bihar Caste-Based Survey (2023) found that the SC population increased from 15.9 per cent to 19.65 per cent and the ST population from 1.2 per cent to 1.68 per cent. Yet, the seat allocation does not reflect these demographic shifts, leaving many SC/ST communities underrepresented.

Notably, a purely population-based seat allocation could drastically shift power toward the Hindi heartland, diminishing representation for southern states. Political scientist Alistair McMillan proposes expanding the Lok Sabha to accommodate demographic shifts without reducing representation for

We prefer a more optimistic perspective on the expansion of seats in Parliament through delimitation. We propose linking this process to the devolution of power to subnational units, which would enhance the representational and participatory aspects of democracy. Our focus should be on empowering women and lower castes. This approach aligns with Alexis de Tocqueville's vision of the gradual development of "equality of conditions" in India.

Ultimately, the delimitation exercise in India is a complex interplay of demographic data, constitutional law, and political interests, all of which must be navigated carefully to ensure fair and equitable representation in the electoral system. For India to remain a vibrant and robust democracy, a broad consensus must be built across political parties – both national and regional – regarding the updating of the nation's electoral infrastructure. The unprecedented political consensus surrounding the 127th Constitutional Amendment Bill suggests that India is rapidly evolving into what Dutch political scientist Arend Lijphart described as a consociational or power-sharing democracy within a majoritarian polity. Delimitation has the potential to enhance the quality of India's electoral democracy and rejuvenate its democratic longevity in the long term.

*The writers teach at Centre of Electoral Studies, TISS, Mumbai. The views and opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect the official position of affiliated institutions*

we must provide dignified remuneration.

A smartphone should be provided to the woman panchayat leaders for independent access to technology, information and governance resources. Provision of an official transport to be able to travel freely and safely to conduct inspections, with a civil engineer or supervisor appointed as a personal and technical assistant to assist in interactions with officials and in overseeing construction and development projects, is another way of ensuring that reliance on male family members is reduced.

The capacity-building programmes should start immediately after elections and be conducted quarterly for at least two years with hand-holding provisions for the elected women leaders. Government officials must be added in women sarpanches' WhatsApp groups to provide real-time guidance and prevent misinformation. And the whistleblowing mechanism needs to be well thought out. While the new mandate encourages reporting proxy leadership, a poorly executed system could be misused by political opponents to discredit women leaders, causing unnecessary fear and distraction instead of fostering empowerment.

When women leaders receive the right support, their governance transforms villages. Issues concerning women, children and marginalised groups gain priority, leading to holistic development. The mandate has the potential to be a game-changer, ensuring that those elected truly lead. It is about the very soul of democracy in rural India.

*The writer is India's first MBA sarpanch*

## Her panchayat, in fact

Government's initiative to dissuade proxy leadership is a much-needed move



CHHAVI RAJAWAT

THE DREAM OF a truly developed India extends beyond infrastructure and economic growth – it lies in the empowerment of its people. True progress requires inclusivity, equality, and dignity for all. A significant step toward this was the establishment of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) with 33-50 per cent of seats reserved for women.

The intent was clear: To ensure the inclusion of marginalised voices in local governance. While these quotas have undoubtedly brought more women into leadership roles, the system has revealed a persistent challenge of proxy leadership. Many elected women sarpanches find themselves overshadowed by male family members, not just due to patriarchal mindsets but because of systemic weaknesses, lack of education and inadequate institutional support.

As India's first MBA sarpanch, my own journey in rural leadership began in 2010 through a seat reserved for women. My re-election in 2015, in a general seat, was a testament to the power of inclusive and performance-driven governance. But my case is an exception. Across many panchayats, women leaders continue to struggle.

Many elected women panchayat members lack formal education and sufficient knowledge of governance structures. As a result, they are often left isolated, with little institutional support from government-appointed functionaries even within the panchayat. This vacuum creates a space for male relatives or other power brokers to step in, effectively rendering the elected woman leader powerless.

In some cases, men's involvement is jus-

tified as a means of supporting women leaders by offering them guidance in construction projects, supervising work, or even ensuring their safety and protecting their position of power from being misused. While well-intentioned, this too ultimately undermines the spirit of the reservation policy, which was designed to bring women into positions of actual authority, not symbolic representation.

Recognising these issues, the government's initiative to dissuade proxy leadership is a much-needed move. However, its success depends on tackling deeper societal and institutional biases. Change must begin not just within households but also within government structures that oversee PRIs. Gender disempowerment often leaves women leaders voiceless despite holding office. Voters' trust may erode, leading to a loss of faith in local governance.

I have witnessed first hand how the attitudes of officials can either enable or hinder women leaders. In many training programs I attended, the resource persons displayed a dismissive attitude toward women sarpanches, treating them as uninformed and incapable, using phrases including, "Ye to gaon ki anpad, ganwaar mahilayen hain, inkuch kuch samajh nahi aao." (They are illiterate village women who understand nothing) This condescending approach turns capacity building efforts into tokenism and a major roadblock to real empowerment.

At the same time, regions where women leaders have thrived have seen proactive support from family members and local of-

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"While Pakistan is right in blaming the Afghan Taliban for doing little to curb cross-border terrorism, if ties deteriorate further, it will negatively affect counterterrorism cooperation."

— DAWN, PAKISTAN

## Two crimes, one message

From Beed to Pune, criminals count on a climate of impunity — because of a criminal justice system that is seen to be crumbling



MEERAN CHADHA BORWANKAR

While the accused in the Swargate bus depot case of Pune reportedly had a criminal record, I am sure the gang involved in the Beed murder too are not first-timers either. The cruellest way of murdering the sarpanch and the heinous conduct of defiling the dead have shaken the whole state. The investigation has disclosed that the killers used a gas pipe, clutch wires, sharp weapons, to tortue and then kill Deshmukh. First-time offenders are hardly ever seen to show the harsh mentality seen in this shocking case.

And last but not the least is the political patronage that criminals apparently continue to enjoy not only in Maharashtra but all over the country. The functional autonomy for police sought by Prakash Singh through his Public Interest Litigation (PIL) and the subsequent police reforms initiated by the Supreme Court are only on paper. The harsh truth is that scarcely any police chief of a district or SHO of a police station can go against the local MLA or MP, who can get them transferred in a jiffy. Many politicians support and engage local criminal gangs for extortion and to silence their opponents.

And yet they also maintain a discreet distance from them so as not to be caught in the police investigations. Just as it is difficult to link a gang leader to the criminal involved and arrested, similarly it is very tough to fix a political leader who could be behind a crime like that of the cruel murder of Sarpanch Santosh Deshmukh. Scientific evidence is difficult to come by for proving the connection between the politician and the criminals who purportedly act at his behest. And statements of the accused, even if they confess to the relationship, have no value in the court.

The enormous pendency of court cases further emboldens criminals. After each heinous crime there is an outcry for speedy trial through a special court because a routine trial takes years to conclude. Instead, we should seek 50 judges per million population, as recommended by the Law Commission's 1987 report. Presently the judge-population ratio in the country is around 21 judges per million population. We also need to pursue police officers as per the international norms and functional autonomy for police. The Supreme Court mandated reforms whereby politicians cannot interfere in the postings and transfers of police officers should be implemented urgently and in earnest.

Today it is Maharashtra, tomorrow it will be another state. The crumbling criminal justice system is an unfortunate reality in our country. 'Viksit Bharat' cannot have a society where women are afraid to participate in the workforce for the fear of rapists and the economy does not grow because of lethal meddling in projects by criminals supported by politicians.

The writer is a retired IPS officer of Maharashtra cadre

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### TWO-WAY STREET

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Tariff and turmoil' (IE, March 5). All countries, in their national interest, resort to differential protectionist policies and tariffs. Donald Trump's decision to hike tariffs against China, Canada and Mexico, and call for reciprocal tariffs is akin to igniting America's economic nationalism. This shift away from a more globalisation-oriented scheme, which the US had previously espoused, has now created uncertainty and volatility in the global business environment. Nonetheless, Trump's tariff hike is not a one-way street. The US will be impacted as well. For instance, American farmers will lose out to their competitors once their agricultural products become expensive.

**L R Murmu**, New Delhi

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Tariff and turmoil' (IE, March 5). An impulsive step by US President Donald Trump to hike tariffs on certain goods imported from a host of countries evoking equally snappy responses from countries like China, Canada and Mexico has triggered ripples in the global economy. It will be challenging for India to cope with the emerging situation. But it should take it as a blessing in disguise and explore other profitable avenues to export its goods and services. Delhi must exploit the economic turmoil to its advantage without feeling let down by the self-defeating and arbitrary decisions of the Trump administration.

**Ravi Mathur**, Noida

provided an opportunity to Russia to be the part of a single global order with shared interests. Russia, while showing intentions to cease this ongoing war in Ukraine, may respond positively. When Trump calls Putin to the table, assuring to alleviate all apprehensions regarding the expansion of NATO, both Russia and Ukraine both accept this proposal of conflict resolution without delay. Trump's initiative is pragmatic. War only brings mayhem to humanity, and peace is the solution that is being offered by the US president.

**Devendra Awasthi**, Lucknow

### PATIENCE NEEDED

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'At a global crossroads' (IE, March 4). The way Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy had to endure the humiliation at the hands of US president Donald Trump and Vice President J D Vance at the Oval Office on February 28 not only showcased Trump's disrespect for the tenets of diplomacy but also his penchant for despots, be it Vladimir Putin of Russia or Viktor Orbán of Hungary. It will be interesting to see how the Trump administration's leniency towards Russia with the aim of undermining its closeness with China could wither the transatlantic alliance, down to the level from where it can't be restored. Only time will tell whether the initiatives of European leaders like British PM Keir Starmer and French President Emmanuel Macron will bear any fruit in guaranteeing the security of Ukraine while formulating a peace deal with Washington. It will need a great deal of effective and patient diplomacy to end the war for good.

**Amandeep Bains**, Sirsa

### A PRAGMATIC PEACE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Russia in Trump's world' (IE, March 5). Trump has

## BRIEFLY

## TELANGANA

Student from Telangana shot in US: Family

**Hyderabad:** A 26-year-old student from Telangana was allegedly found dead with bullet wounds in the US, but the circumstances leading to his death were not clear, his family members said on Wednesday. G Praveen was pursuing MS in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. His family was informed by US authorities on Wednesday morning (Indian time). Some friends said that Praveen's body was found with bullets, his cousin Arun told PTI. Some say Praveen was shot dead by unknown assailants at a store, but the cause of death was not known to the family, he said. Arun said Praveen called his father in the early hours of Wednesday, but the latter could not take the call as he was sleeping. PTI

## GUJARAT

Lioness kills farmer, drags body for 100m

**Ahmedabad:** A lioness on Tuesday mauled a farmer to death and dragged his body for 100-120 metres and sat on top of it, refusing to leave till forest officials intervened. The incident happened on the border of two districts in Gujarat that are part of the larger Gir forest, the last natural habitat of the Asiatic Lion. The animal was later tranquilised and captured. The area—about 1 km east of Kakidi Moli village of Una taluka in Gir-Somnath district—falls under Jasadhar Forest Range in Gir-East Division of Junagadh Wildlife Circle. Forest officials said that the deceased was identified as Manga Bogha Baraiya (35). The Forest Department were informed about the incident around 6.45 pm. Baraiya's body has been sent for postmortem. ENS

**MAHARASHTRA**  
INS Ranvir blast: gas-supplying firm booked

**Mumbai:** Three years after an explosion on board Indian Navy's INS Ranvir killed three personnel and injured 11 others, Colaba police have registered a case against a gas-supplying company. According to the police, the case was filed on a complaint by Indian Navy personnel under relevant sections of negligence and mischief after a Board of Inquiry determined that the company had supplied Freon R152a gas instead of the required R22 in a Freon condenser, allegedly triggering the blast in the ship's AC compartment. The explosion occurred between 4.30 pm and 5 pm on January 18, 2022, while the warship was docked. INS Ranvir was on a cross-coast operational deployment from the Eastern Naval Command since November 2021 and was due to return to its base. ENS

## RANYA RAO WAS HELD AT THE AIRPORT FOR ALLEGEDLY SMUGGLING 14.2 KG GOLD

## Day after actor held, cash and jewellery worth ₹4.7 cr seized from her residence

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU, MARCH 5

A DAY after Kannada film actor Ranya Rao was arrested at Bengaluru International Airport for allegedly smuggling 14.2 kg of gold worth ₹12.56 crore, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) said in an official statement on Wednesday.

The gold bars seized on Tuesday "is one of the biggest seizures of gold at Bengaluru International airport in recent times," the DRI stated.

Following the arrest, Rao was remanded to DRI custody till March 18 by a special court for economic offences. A search was also carried out at her residence.

"Following the interception, DRI officers conducted a search at her residential premises located at Lavelle Road, Bengaluru, where she resides with her husband. The search resulted in the

Rao, 33, who is the step-daughter of a senior Karnataka IPS officer of the Director General of Police rank, was intercepted at the airport early on Tuesday when she was returning from one of her frequent trips to Dubai.

"Acting on specific intelligence, DRI officers intercepted an Indian lady passenger aged

around 33 years, who had arrived from Dubai to Bengaluru via Emirates flight on March 3, 2025. Upon examination, gold bars weighing 14.2 kg were found ingeniously concealed on (her) person," the DRI said in an official statement on Wednesday.



Kannada film actor Ranya Rao, 33, is the step-daughter of a senior Karnataka IPS officer of DGP rank. Express

seizure of gold jewellery worth Rs 2.06 crore and Indian currency amounting to Rs 2.67 crore," the DRI said.

The total seizure in the case stands at Rs 17.29 crore, according to the DRI.

"The lady passenger has been

placed under arrest under the relevant provisions of the Customs Act, 1962 and remanded to judicial custody," the DRI said.

Rao, who entered the Kannada film industry in 2014 at the age of 22, played the lead role in three Kannada films. She had been trying to make a mark in other southern language films.

Rao's step-father has had a controversial career and was linked many years ago in Mysuru to a suspicious robbery of a gold consignment that was being transported to Kerala from Karnataka on a bus by a jeweller.

Several lower-level police officers were accused of being hand-in-glove in the robbery case that occurred over a decade ago. The senior police officer was transferred from his

posting but no official or legal action was initiated against him in the gold robbery case.

Last year, the son of the police officer was questioned by a Karnataka Police special investigation team over his alleged association with international hacker Srikrishna Ramesh alias Sriki as part of investigations into the hacker's transactions and with specific reference to the purchase of a Porsche Macan bought by associates of the hacker in January 2018 by paying Rs 57 lakh.

The car was later returned to the showroom for a refund.

The DGI's son married the daughter of a renowned former Kannada film actress-turned-politician last month.

Rao is also reported to have been associated with senior politicians in Karnataka.

## SPORTS EXCELLENCE FORUM

## Union Minister schools Gujarat MoS on his 'sports superpower' claim

RITU SHARMA  
GANDHINAGAR, MARCH 5

IN RESPONSE to Minister of State for Sports Harsh Sanghavi's push for Gujarat, calling it "as a rising sporting powerhouse" and promoting it as a "land of opportunities" and transforming it into a future destination for sports, Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports, Raksha Khadse, retorted on "the need to focus on other states too" — envisioning for an India, which is a "sports superpower".

The ministers were speaking at an inaugural ceremony of a two-day Australia-India Sports Excellence Forum in GIFT City on Wednesday.

"Harsh Sanghavi said that Gujarat is a state where we can develop all these infrastructure, but I would like to say that... we have to focus on other states too. In the coming days, we can increase to the maximum the culture of sports so that every state is taken forward. When the Olympics will be hosted in 2036, India, as a country, will move forward," Khadse said, while also mentioning that "all industries present" retooled to Sanghavi's push for promoting Gujarat as a land of opportunities, citing one of the best sport manufacturing policies.

Further, to Sanghavi's statements, Khadse said that India's ambition to host the 2036 Olympics is a proof of the country's increasing strength, determination and commitment. "Financially, I am confident that an exchange like this forum will contribute towards making India a sports superpower," she added.

"The passion for sports is a common thread that connects India and Australia. So far, this passion for sports has been seen only in cricket and hockey. Now



Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Raksha Khadse; Gujarat Minister of State for Sports Harsh Sanghavi

through this forum, it is said to reach new areas like talent development, sporting event management, inclusivity in sports, role of private sector and education science in sports. It will also provide trade tourism and investment in sporting industries," she further stated.

In his address, Sanghavi said, "Gujarat is a rising sporting powerhouse. Gujarat has always been a land of champions, warriors and trailblazers. Today we are scripting a new chapter as a sports hub, aligning with PM Narendra Modi's vision of Make in India with global sporting superpower. The Narendra Modi Stadium, the world's largest, has become an iconic venue witnessing historic sporting moments and other cultural events. Gujarat is investing heavily in sports infrastructure, training academies, and grassroots development, ensuring the next generation of athletes gets the world-class exposure they deserve."

Inviting all stakeholders present to explore opportunities in Gujarat, Sanghavi also said, "Gujarat is having one of the best sports manufacturing policies."

"The passion for sports is a common thread that connects India and Australia. So far, this passion for sports has been seen only in cricket and hockey. Now

## 2017 WALAYAR RAPE, SUICIDE CASE

## CBI to make parents accused in all 11 cases

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, MARCH 5

IN A NEW twist in the probe of 2017 Walayar rape and suicide case of two minor girls, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has decided to name the parents of the victims as accused in all 11 cases registered in connection with the incident.

On Wednesday, when the matter came up before its consideration, the CBI court accepted the six charge sheets already filed against the parents.

The girls, aged 9 and 13, were found hanging in their house at Walayar in Palakkad in early 2017.

Police found that the girls had died by suicide after allegedly being subjected to sexual abuse by five persons, including a juvenile.

In 2019, a special POCSO court acquitted four accused, citing no scientific evidence to connect them to the offences mentioned in the chargesheet. Following appeals by the state government and the girls' mother, a sessions court in August 2022 ordered a CBI probe.

The CBI has submitted six

charge sheets against the parents of the girls at the court in Kochi on charges of abetting the repeated sexual abuse. They will be made co-accused in two other cases before Juvenile Justice Board in Palakkad, in which a minor boy is the accused.

CBI special prosecutor, Pious Mathew, said the court has accepted the six charge sheets filed against the parents. The court will consider the case again on March 25. The parents will be accused in three more cases in which further investigations are going on. Altogether, they will be accused in 11 cases, he said.

The father and mother of the girls were witnesses in the cases when the police probed the cases.

"The father had witnessed one of the accused named V Madhu, sexually abusing the girl. He used to consume liquor with one of the accused Kutti Madhu at their home even after the eldest daughter attained puberty. The father allowed Kutti Madhu to sleep at the house, allowing him to ill-treat the daughter" said the charge sheet.

The parents were charged under section 109 of the IPC, section 21 of the POCSO Act and section 75 of the Juvenile Justice Act.



SNOWFALL IN PAHALGAM

Tourists in Jammu & Kashmir's Pahalgam after fresh snowfall on Wednesday. PTI

## Physical test for forest jobs: Odisha govt orders inquiry after 3 applicants die in past 24 hours

SUJIT BISOYI  
BHUBANESWAR, MARCH 5

PRAVIN KUMAR Panda from Odisha's Rourkela completed his BTech and bagged a lucrative job at a leading private company, but he wanted a government job.

He applied for the post of foresters and forest guards of the state government and cleared the medical tests. Then, like all other candidates, 30-year-old Panda was asked to complete a 25-km walk in four hours as part of the physical fitness examination during the recruitment process.

According to officials, Pravin collapsed after completing

around 4 km and was rushed to the Sundargarh medical college where the doctors declared him dead. Not just Panda, two others – 27-year-old Byomkesh Naik of Keonjhar and 26-year-old Ganarajan Jena of Jagatsinghpur – also died during the physical tests, conducted by the Odisha Sub-ordinate Staff Selection Commission (OSSC) in the past 24 hours.

Expressing concern over the death of three candidates during the physical tests, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi announced an ex-gratia of Rs 4 lakh to each of the deceased's families.

Odisha Forest Minister Ganeshram Singh Khuntia said

an inquiry has been ordered into the deaths of three candidates. "If anyone is found guilty during the inquiry, we will take action," the minister said.

Pravin's father Khadal Panda, who accompanied his son to Sundargarh to appear for the physical test, said it was still unclear to him what happened since his son had cleared the medical tests. "He cleared all the medical tests after which he was allowed to appear for the physical test. I don't know what happened. The officials told me that my son had collapsed. We immediately rushed to the hospital where I came to know that he is no more," Khadal Panda told reporters. The family conducted

Pravin's final rites on Wednesday.

A close relative of Pravin's told *The Indian Express* that Pravin wanted a government job as he considered it more secure despite working at a private company for the past three years. Pravin is second among three siblings.

Naik, on the other hand,

completed the endurance test but was rushed to the Keonjhar district headquarters hospital after he reported feeling "uncomfortable". Naik was referred to the SCB Medical College and Hospital, where he died.

Like Panda, Naik, a native of Ostapanga village in Keonjhar district, was also a BTech graduate. He was working at a clerical post and had applied for the foresters and forest guards position for better prospects.

Amid concerns over the death during the physical test,

conducted during the day with temperature above 30, the OSSC directed that authorities conduct the test early morning starting at 4.30 am.

Sources in Naik's family said that he had recently cleared the Panchayat Executive Officer exam but confident of landing the forester job, he didn't join.

Sundargarh Additional DM Rabindranath Sahu said arrangements were made and adequate staff, including paramedics, was deployed.

He

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SENSEX: 73,730.23 ▲ 740.30 (1.01%) NIFTY: 22,337.30 ▲ 254.65 (1.15%) NIKKEI: 37,418.24 ▲ 87.06 HANG SENG: 23,594.21 ▲ 652.44 FTSE: 8,800.71 ▲ 41.71 DAX: 23,052.88 ▲ 726.07

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market; gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) per barrel as of March 4  
International market data till 1900 IST



**GOLD**

₹89,300



**USD RATE**

₹87.06



**OIL**

\$70.74



**SILVER**

₹99,000

## PSMC PRESIDENT MARTIN CHU

# 'Actively bringing fab construction suppliers from Taiwan to Dholera'

**SOUMYARENDRA BARIK**  
GANDHINAGAR, MARCH 5

TAIWANESE SEMICONDUCTOR company Powerchip (PSMC), which is working with Tata Electronics to build India's first commercial fabrication plant, is attracting fab construction companies from the island nation to Dholera in Gujarat, where the site is coming up, a top company official said Wednesday.

"Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership... strategic initiatives have created a welcoming environment for an international company like PSMC, and an ecosystem which is conducive to innovation, investment and long-term success," Martin Chu, President, PSMC, said during the Gujarat SemiConnect conference.

The Tata-PSMC fab, being built at a cost of roughly \$11 billion, is among the five semiconductor projects the government has greenlit under the India Semiconductor Mission.



The Tata-PSMC fab, being built at a cost of roughly \$11 billion, is among the five semiconductor projects the government has greenlit under the India Semiconductor Mission.

X/@Bhupendrapbjp

have been adopted at scale across multiple industries worldwide including TVs, PC monitors, laptops, mobile phones, tablets, automotive, ePaper devices, industrial displays, among others.

As part of the agreement, the entities will engage in end-to-end production of display semiconductor solutions for their mutual customers, from chip design to chip manufacturing and packaging, as well as electronics manufacturing services (EMS) to deliver system-level solutions, to both the Indian and global markets. The partnership also encompasses designing and manufacturing next-generation solutions to meet global demand while enhancing supply chain resilience.

Randhir Thakur, CEO and MD of Tata Electronics, said, "This MoU with Himax and PSMC will enable the development of differentiated solutions for display-related semiconductor products for our mutual customers... Together, we will drive innovation and develop next-generation technologies to meet the growing demands of display and ultralow power AI sensing technologies across key industries while contributing to a resilient semiconductor supply chain."

(The reporter was in Gandhinagar at the invitation of the India Electronics & Semiconductor Association.)

The market seen the bottom? Here is a look at reasons why the markets have risen:

### Markets shrug off tariff talk

US President Donald Trump once again targeted India for its high tariffs, signalling that negotiations for a trade deal may not yield concessions for New Delhi on sweeping levies such as reciprocal tariffs, which are set to take effect from April 2.

This hard talk did not bother the Indian stock market participants and they rose strongly and closed the day with strongest gain over the last one month. Experts say that the tariff talk is nothing new and the US President has been talking about it for some time now.

"For whatever impact they may have, it has already been factored in by the markets and it does not come as a surprise to the markets. Hence, there is no impact of the Tuesday's announcement on the markets," said a fund manager who did not wish to be named.

Since there is larger consensus in the market around large caps trading at fair valuations now, experts say that domestic institutional investors (DIIs) are looking to buy at current levels as many of them see them attractive to pick from a long-term perspective. The index (Nifty) had been hovering near a crucial support zone between 22,000 - 21,800, and with oscillators in deeply oversold territory, a bounce was due. Looking ahead, we expect this positive momentum to continue," said a fund manager.

## WHY MARKETS ROSE ON WEDNESDAY



**STOCK MARKETS** have already factored in the impact of Trump tariffs and it does not come as a surprise... which is why there is no impact of the Tuesday's announcement, said a fund manager

**DIIS ARE** are looking to buy at current levels as many of them see them attractive to pick from a long-term perspective

green. "Strong global market cues led the recovery in domestic indices as talks that Trump administration could reverse some tariffs amidst the ongoing global trade tensions buoyed sentiment. Also, local factors such as increase in February PMI index, a sharp fall in rupee, and downturn in crude oil prices triggered massive buying in the beaten-down technology, realty and telecom sectors," said Prashanth Tapase, senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities. However, since the recovery remains fragile owing to global uncertainty and FII showing no signs of halting the selloff trend, market could remain volatile going ahead, he said.

### Valuation concerns ebb

Market participants feel that while the large caps may have stabilised at current levels and may see upward movement from these levels, there may still be some pain left in the mid and small cap segment. "The movement will, however, be stock-specific as some blue chips may be available at a good bargain, but at the same time another one may be expensive. So, investors are likely to be very choosy in what they pick given that everything has fallen," said a fund manager.

Further, a technical rebound from oversold zones helped boost investor sentiment. The Nifty's Relative Strength Index (RSI) appeared to have bottomed out, indicating a potential revival.

FULL REPORT ON

[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)



## Tesla's first showroom will be in Mumbai

New Delhi: US electric carmaker Tesla has signed a lease deal to open its first showroom in Mumbai, as it moves towards a goal to sell imported cars in India, registration papers show, after it dropped similar plans last year.

Tesla did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The papers show the company has signed a five-year lease from February 16, 2025, and will pay rent of about \$4.46,000 for the first year for a 4,003 square feet (372 sq m) space, almost the size of a basketball court.

The rent will increase by 5 per cent every year reaching about \$5,42,000 for the fifth year, according to the registered lease document provided by analytics firm CRE Matrix.

The showroom will be situated in the Mankar Building in the business and retail hub of Bandra Kurla Complex near Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International airport, according to the papers.

In February, Tesla reportedly selected locations for two showrooms in New Delhi and Mumbai, days after the carmaker's chief Elon Musk met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the US.

Reuters

## Defying US reciprocal tariff threats, markets rebound with 1% gain

**GEORGE MATHEW & SANDEEP SINGH**  
MUMBAI, MARCH 5

INDIAN MARKETS defied expectations by rebounding strongly despite Donald Trump's announcement of reciprocal tariffs on India starting April 2. The Sensex and Nifty jumped over one per cent to 73,730.23 and 22,337.30 respectively on Wednesday, a surprising move given the 16 per cent decline over the last five months.

The rebound was apparently fuelled by the fact that all the negative news has already been factored in, and fundamentally, the Indian economy remains strong. This optimism is driving hopes of a recovery in large-cap stocks which, in turn, can eventually lead to an overall broad recovery in the battered stock market. Has the market seen the bottom?

Here is a look at reasons why the markets have risen:

Randhir Thakur, CEO and MD of Tata Electronics, said, "This MoU with Himax and PSMC will enable the development of differentiated solutions for display-related semiconductor products for our mutual customers... Together, we will drive innovation and develop next-generation technologies to meet the growing demands of display and ultralow power AI sensing technologies across key industries while contributing to a resilient semiconductor supply chain."

(The reporter was in Gandhinagar at the invitation of the India Electronics & Semiconductor Association.)

## BRIEFLY

**'Uttarakhand performed better than Himachal'**

New Delhi: A hike in insurance limit on bank deposits above Rs 5 lakh is expected to have a "marginally but notable" impact on lenders' profit, rating agency Icra said on Wednesday. Currently, deposits up to Rs 5 lakh by an individual customer is covered by the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), which collects premiums from banks for protecting customers' money in case a lender goes down. It said the failure of New India Cooperative Bank may have prompted deliberations, but added that such a move could drill a hole of up to Rs 12,000 crore on banks' profit.

PTI

**EY award for KV Kamath, Nithin Kamath**

New Delhi: Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Zerodha Nithin Kamath has been awarded the EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2024 on Wednesday. Union Minister Bhupender Yadav presented the award to Nithin, Chairman of Jio Financial Services KV Kamath received Lifetime Achievement award and former ISRO chief S Somanath received the Special Jury award.

EENS

**Integrated traffic mgmt in Gurgaon by Maruti**

New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki India on Wednesday said it has partnered with the Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority and Utkrisht Society for Safe Haryana to implement an integrated traffic management system in the city.

PTI

**Reliance Infra settles debt with J&K Bank**

New Delhi: Reliance Infrastructure Ltd on Wednesday said it has entered into a one-time settlement with Jammu and Kashmir Bank for the settlement of its debt amounting to Rs 90.50 crore, including interest.

EENS

## NITI Aayog flags national security risk with quantum technology

**AGGAM WALIA**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

### HIGH-PROTECTION SECTOR

**QUANTUM TECH** can crack modern encryption, destabilise financial markets, and transform military capabilities, hence India needs to assess vulnerabilities, adopt post-quantum cryptography, and forge bilateral partnerships for technology access, the release said

**PUBLIC SECTOR** investment in quantum development has increased rapidly, with over \$40 billion pledged by more than 30 governments. China leads with a \$15 billion commitment, the US has invested \$5 billion, and India plans to invest \$750 million

quantum development has increased rapidly, with over \$40 billion pledged by more than 30 governments. China leads with a \$15 billion commitment, the US has invested \$5 billion, and India plans to invest \$750 million

genuinely come up with very economical solutions," Subrahmanyam said.

Debjani Ghosh, distinguished fellow at NITI Aayog and chief architect of the Frontier Tech Hub, said, "The race hasn't even started. It's very early days, and I'm glad that we have got a foot in the door with the quantum mission. We are at least thinking about it and building a foundation."

### India's quantum plans

The NQM, with a budgetary outlay of Rs 6,003 crore, was set up to build quantum-related capabilities in key domains, namely, computing, communications, sensors, and materials. The esti-

mated expenditure for the ongoing financial year under the mission was reduced from Rs 427 crore to Rs 86 crore in the latest Union Budget. For FY26, it is projected to rise to Rs 600 crore.

"The Indian quantum mission caught the trend very early and they started the investment early. They had a specific goal, which was to address the hardware issue, because that is going to be a key limiter in quantum. Later on, we'll realise how important that is going to be, not right now. The mission also started growing the startup ecosystem," Ghosh said.

"Companies are focusing on producing ultra-high purity materials, cryogenic systems, specialised lasers, and control electronics tailored for quantum computing," the release noted.

The release also flagged an expected surge in export controls on quantum technologies as a key risk. "As quantum technologies become critical to national security, export restrictions are tightening on components like Arbitrary Waveform Generators, Digital-to-Analog Converters, Microwave Components, specialised lasers, and cryogenic dilution refrigerators," it said.

FULL REPORT  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

### UNDER PARVATMALA PARIYOJANA: 15,000 FT. ABOVE SEA LEVEL

## Cabinet nod to 2 ropeway projects in Uttarakhand

**DHEERAJ MISHRA**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 5



Express File

or by ponies, palanquins and helicopter.

According to the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH), Govindghat to Hemkund Sahib Ji ropeway project will have Monocable Detachable Gondola from Govindghat to Ghangaria (10.55 km) and further integrated with the advanced Tricable Detachable Gondola (3S) technology with a design capacity of 1,800 passengers per hour per direction carrying 18,000 passengers per day.

Ropeways do not need large construction works on the ground surface as such incur lower land acquisition costs. It has higher cost of construction per km than roadways. However, ropeways may be more economical than roadways.

In an statement, the ministry said that the project will foster

the economic growth of the region as both religious sites, Hemkund Sahib Ji and Kedarnath, attract lakhs of pilgrims every year.

Hemkund Sahib Ji is situated at an elevation of 15,000 ft in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand, where the Gurudwara open for about 5 months in a year between May and September and is visited by about 1.5 to 2 lakh pilgrims annually. Similarly, Kedarnath is situated at an elevation of 3,583 m (11,968 ft) in Rudraprayag district, where the temple is open for about seven months and is visited by around 20 lakh pilgrims annually.

Both the projects will significantly increase the total length of Parvatala Pariyojna. Launched in Union Budget 2022-23, MoRTH's ambitious ropeway scheme aims to develop more than 250 projects with a total length of over 1,200 km under PPP model with around 60 per cent contribution support by Centre.

FULL REPORT  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

epaper.indianexpress.com

## Responsible innovation must for new fin entities: RBI governor

**Mumbai:** Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra on Wednesday underscored the need for responsible innovation and emphasised the need for ensuring compliance by the entities that are new to regulatory space.

In an interaction with non-bank payment system operators and fintechs along with their as-

sociations/SROs, he recognised the role played by fintechs including payment system players, account aggregators, and digital lending service providers, in the growth of India's financial system and economy, RBI said in a statement.

RBI values such interactions with the ecosystem participants, he said.

PTI



A painting of the Pope at Rome's Gemelli hospital on Monday

VATICAN CITY  
Pope Francis off ventilation again after rest

Vatican City: Pope Francis, who has been struggling to overcome double pneumonia for almost three weeks, was taken off mechanical ventilation on Wednesday after using it through the night to help with his breathing, the Vatican said. The 88-year-old pope was admitted to Rome's Gemelli hospital on February 14 with a severe respiratory infection that has required continuously evolving treatment. The Vatican said Francis was reconnected to non-invasive mechanical ventilation overnight after it was removed during the day on Tuesday, underscoring his continued difficulty in shaking off the dangerous illness.

REUTERS

NEPAL  
Protesters seek restoration of monarchy

Kathmandu: Nepal witnessed multiple rallies across the country by activists demanding the return of monarchy. While the protest in the Parliament was mainly focused against what members said dictatorial ways of the Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli and certain repressive measures of the government, Kathmandu witnessed huge motorbike rally by pro-monarchy activists to have the monarchy back. Wednesday's rally in Kathmandu had participants from both Rashtriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) and "save the nation, culture and dharma" campaign.

ENS

PAKISTAN  
Toll in suicide blast rises to 18, mass funeral held

Peshawar: Thousands of people poured on to the streets of Bannu in north-western Pakistan for the funerals on Wednesday of 18 people, including six children, killed in a suicide attack on a security installation. Suicide bombers drove two vehicles packed with explosives into the town's military base in an attack staged by more than a dozen militants on Tuesday. At least 13 civilians and five soldiers were killed in the attack, the military said. Md Nauman, spokesperson for a nearby hospital said six children were killed.

REUTERS

## PRESIDENT'S FIRST ADDRESS TO CONGRESS

## Ukraine is willing to come to negotiating table, Russia ready for peace, says Trump

REUTERS  
WASHINGTON, MARCH 5

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump said on Tuesday he received a letter from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in which he expressed willingness to come to the negotiating table over Russia-Ukraine war.

"Ukraine is ready to come to the negotiating table as soon as possible to bring lasting peace closer. Nobody wants peace more than the Ukrainians," Trump said in an address to Congress on Tuesday while quoting from the letter. Trump also said he had been in "serious discussions with Russia" and had "received strong signals that they are ready for peace".

"Wouldn't that be beautiful?" he said. "It's time to stop this madness. It's time to halt the killing. It's time to end this senseless war. If you want to end wars you have to talk to both sides."

The Kremlin, meanwhile, said it welcomes Zelensky's statement that Kyiv is willing to negotiate over the war, but it is not yet clear to Moscow who it might be negotiating with. Dmitry Peskov, Kremlin spokesperson, said: "The question is who to sit down with. For now, the Ukrainian president is still legally prohibited from negotiating with the Russian side. His statement came a day after US halted military aid to Ukraine.

"My team and I stand ready to work under President Trump's strong leadership to get a peace that lasts," Zelensky said on X.

"Our meeting... did not go the way it was supposed to be. It is regrettable that it happened this way. It is time to make things right."

US Treasury Secretary Scott



US President Donald Trump during a joint session of Congress in the House Chamber of the U.S. Capitol, Tuesday. Reuters

Bessent told Fox News, "There is no signing planned," according to a post on X by a Fox reporter.

Early on Tuesday, Zelensky pledged to repair ties with US after what he described as a "regrettable" Oval Office clash with Trump. He said he wanted to "make things right" and was ready "any time and in any convenient format" to sign the minerals deal. His statement came a day after US halted military aid to Ukraine.

"My team and I stand ready to work under President Trump's strong leadership to get a peace that lasts," Zelensky said on X.

"Our meeting... did not go the way it was supposed to be. It is regrettable that it happened this way. It is time to make things right."

## US cuts off intelligence-sharing with Ukraine, says CIA chief

REUTERS  
MARCH 5

THE US has cut off intelligence-sharing with Kyiv, said CIA chief John Ratcliffe Wednesday in a move that could seriously hamper the Ukrainian military's ability to target Russian forces.

The decision to cut off intelligence-sharing and military aid to Ukraine starkly illustrates the Trump administration's willingness to play hardball with an ally

CIA director  
John Ratcliffe

to force it to the negotiating table.

US President Donald Trump said Tuesday he received a letter from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in which the Ukrainian leader expressed willingness to negotiate over the Russia-Ukraine war. "I think on

the military front and the intelligence front, the pause (that prompted Zelensky to respond) I think will go away," Ratcliffe told Fox Business Network.

"I think we'll work shoulder to shoulder with Ukraine as we have to push back on the aggression that's there, but to put the world in a better place for these peace negotiations to move forward," he said. Three official sources also confirmed that US intelligence-sharing had stopped, but was not clear to what extent.

## ISIS-K terrorist charged for role in 2021 Kabul airport bombing that killed 13 American soldiers, Trump thanks Pak for arrest

YOSHITA SINGH  
WASHINGTON, MARCH 5

AN ISIS-K terrorist has been charged by the US with conspiring to provide material support to a designated foreign terrorist organisation resulting in death and faces life in prison for his role in the 2021 Kabul airport bombing, with President Donald Trump thanking Pakistan for his arrest.

Mohammad Sharifullah, also known as "Jafar", has been arrested and is expected to appear in the Eastern District of Virginia

Wednesday to face charges for his role in the August 26, 2021 Abbey Gate bombing at the Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul that killed 13 US military service members and about 160 civilians.

If convicted, Sharifullah faces a maximum penalty of life in prison. President Trump, in an address to the Joint Session of Congress, said that a "top terrorist" responsible for the August 2021 Abbey Gate bombing at Kabul airport as American forces withdrew from Afghanistan has been apprehended and is being brought to the country to face

justice. He did not name Sharifullah and thanked the Pakistan government for "helping arrest this monster".

US Attorney General Pamela Bondi said that the "evil ISIS-K terrorist" orchestrated the brutal murder of 13 heroic marines. "Under President Trump's strong leadership on the world stage, this Department of Justice will ensure that terrorists like Mohammad Sharifullah have no safe haven, no second chances, and no worse enemy than the United States of America," she said.

FBI Director Kash Patel said that thanks to the assistance of

the FBI, Department of Justice, and the CIA, "we have secured Sharifullah's apprehension and transport to the US to face American justice".

Sharifullah was interviewed by FBI agents on March 2 and according to the court documents in the case seen by PTI, Sharifullah told FBI agents that he was recruited into ISIS-K in or around 2016 and has since been a member of the terror group.

"He admitted to supporting and conducting activities on behalf of ISIS-K in support of multiple lethal attacks," including the attack on Embassy Guards in

Kabul, Afghanistan on June 20, 2016 and the attack at the Crocus City Hall, a popular concert venue complex near Moscow, Russia on March 22, 2014 that killed approximately 130 people and injured numerous others.

The Abbey Gate attack came just days after the Taliban took over Kabul. Abbey Gate was the main entry control point for the operation. Thousands of civilians were at or near Abbey Gate on August 26 for evacuation processing. The attack was carried out by lone suicide bomber ISIS-K member named Abdul Rahman al-Logari at Abbey Gate.

PTI

## Israel gets new military chief, Gaza truce in balance

Lt Gen  
Eyal ZamirJAMES MACKENZIE  
JERUSALEM, MARCH 5

ISRAEL SWORE in a new commander of its military on Wednesday as a standoff over the fragile ceasefire in Gaza increased the risk of a resumption of fighting without an agreement to bring home the rest of the hostages still held by Hamas.

Eyal Zamir, who had retired after 28 years, was promoted to Lieutenant General before formally assuming command from General Herzli Halevi, who stepped down over the security disaster of Oct 7, 2023. "We will not forgive, we will not forget. This is an existential war," he said.

Fighting in Gaza has been halted since January under a truce brokered by Qatar and Egypt and supported by the US that has allowed the exchange of 33 Israeli hostages for around 2,000 Palestinian prisoners and detainees. Israel has called for an extension of truce until after the Jewish Passover in April to allow the release of remaining hostages, while Hamas has insisted on proceeding to talks on a permanent end to the war.

REUTERS

## 'No official response' from India on Hasina's extradition: Yunus

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
DHAKA, MARCH 5

BANGLADESH INTERIM government's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus has said that Dhaka had sent "formal letters" to India seeking deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina's extradition but received "no official response" from New Delhi.

In an interview with UK's Sky News, Yunus said Hasina will stand trial for "crimes against humanity", the state-run BSS news agency reported.

Hasina, 77, has been living in India since August 5 last year, when she fled Bangladesh fol-

Bangladesh Chief Advisor  
Muhammad Yunus. File

lowing a massive student-led protest that toppled her Awami League's 16-year regime.

Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) has issued arrest warrants for Hasina and

several former Cabinet ministers and officials for "crimes against humanity and genocide".

"A trial will be taking place. Not only against her, but also all the people associated with her - her family members, her clients or associates," Yunus said.

Yunus said they had sent "formal letters" but received "no official response" from New Delhi. Last year, India confirmed receiving the *note verbale* or diplomatic communication from the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi but refrained from commenting on it. He insisted, however, that Hasina would face the court, whether physically present or in absentia.

Trump has also dangled tariffs at a long list of countries, disrupting a decades-old global trade order that Beijing has built its economic model around.

Premier Li Qiang, in a speech at the opening of the annual meeting of China's parliament, warned that "changes unseen in a century are unfolding across the world at a faster pace".

An increasingly complex and severe external environment may exert a greater impact on China in areas such as trade, science, and technology," Li said.

The trade war with U.S. President Donald Trump's administration is threatening China's economic jewel, its sprawling industrial complex, at a time when persistently sluggish household demand and the unravelling of the debt-laden property sector are leaving the economy increasingly vulnerable. Trump has also dangled

Chinese President Xi Jinping at the National People's Congress on Wednesday

Reuters

## Supreme court rejects Trump's efforts to freeze \$2-bn foreign aid

Apex court votes 5-4 in major setback to one of President's signature projects

ADAM LIPTAK  
WASHINGTON, MARCH 5

THE SUPREME Court on Wednesday rejected President Trump's emergency request to freeze nearly \$2 billion in foreign aid — one of his signature projects — as part of his efforts to slash government spending.

The court's brief order was unsigned, which is typical when the justices act on emergency applications. It said only that the trial judge, who had ordered the government to resume payments, "should clarify what obligations the government must fulfill."

But the ruling represented one of the court's first moves in response to the flurry of litigation filed in response to Trump's efforts to dramatically reshape government. The vote was 5 to 4, with Chief Justice John G. Roberts and Justice Amy Coney Barrett joining the three liberal members to form a majority.

Justice Samuel Alito, writing for the four dissenting justices, said the majority had gone profoundly astray.

"Does a single district-court judge who likely lacks jurisdiction have the unchecked power to compel the government of the US to pay out (and probably lose forever) two billion taxpayer dollars?" he asked. "The answer to that question should be an emphatic 'No,' but a majority of this court apparently thinks otherwise. I am stunned."

The administration halted the aid on January 20, Trump's first day in office.

EXPLAINED  
E Signals more scrutiny on Trump's plans

ALTHOUGH THE language of the order was mild, the bottom line was that a bare majority of the court ruled against President Donald Trump on one of his signature projects.

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The administration halted the aid on January 20, Trump's first day in office.

CHINA UNLOCKED more fiscal stimulus on Wednesday, promising greater efforts to support consumption and cushion the impact of an escalating trade war with the United States on an economy that Beijing is determined to grow by another 5% so this year.

Premier Li Qiang, in a speech at the opening of the annual meeting of China's parliament, warned that "changes unseen in a century are unfolding across the world at a faster pace".

An increasingly complex and severe external environment may exert a greater impact on China in areas such as trade, science, and technology," Li said.

Pressure has been building on Chinese officials for consumer-focused stimulus to fend off deflationary pressures and reduce the world's second-largest economy's reliance on exports and investment for growth. As advanced was given more space in Li's speech this year compared with 2024, with promises to foster its application in sectors including electric vehicles, smartphones and robots.

Oxford. But in the context of the civil wars, the Oxford release said, "the additional lines could also be read as an appeal toward religious and political loyalty."

Professor Dobson noted that the language of devotion is often similar, whether applied to love or politics. "You know: 'my king — right or wrong — I will die a royalist,'" he said, describing both versions as odes to "eternal, quixotic constancy."

He said it was not clear whether the poem was a copy of a draft written by Shakespeare or an adaptation written by someone else.

NYT

DURING THE ENGLISH CIVIL WAR IN THE 1600s, THE EROTIC, PLAYFUL LOVE POEM WAS USED AS AN APPEAL TOWARD POLITICAL LOYALTY

## Rare version of a Shakespeare sonnet suggests it was more political than romantic

AMELIA NIERNERBERG  
LONDON, MARCH 5

IF YOU have already had the good fortune of encountering "Sonnet 116" by William Shakespeare, you were probably at a wedding.

It is not, by most accounts, a sexy poem. It is not exactly a happy one, either. Instead, it celebrates commitment to devotion: "Love's not time's fool," perhaps its most famous phrase, is held up as a toast to living together and aging together. It is one of the poems that, however often it is read aloud, still pricks

tear ducts and quiets fidgets.

But during the English Civil Wars in the mid-1600s, the poem may have had a different resonance. That's, at least, according to research published last month in *The Review of English Studies* by an Oxford researcher, Leah Veronese, who found a rare, handwritten version in an archive.

Such discoveries are rare. "It's incredibly exciting when somebody finds any manuscript trace of Shakespeare's poems," said a Columbia University professor, James Shapiro, an expert on Shakespeare who was not involved in the find.

And experts are celebrating the discovery as an early example of the ways that Shakespeare's work has been adapted to meet a changed moment. "Shakespeare has always been political," Professor Shapiro said, adding, "People repurposed it in their own day — as in ours — for different political ends."

This variation — which has a different opening, ending and seven additional lines — reads more as a celebration of political loyalty than romantic love. It may come from one of the greatest upheavals in British history: A



A statue of Shakespeare in Stratford-upon-Avon in England.

fight between royalists (who supported the monarchy) and parliamentarians (who did not). For a brief period, Britain was not ruled by a monarch.

Much suggests that the newly discovered version was a royalist adaptation.



# The Egyptian alternative to Trump's Gaza 'Riviera' plan



## EXPERT EXPLAINS

BASHIR ALI ABBAS

**ON MARCH 4,** an Emergency Summit of the Arab League adopted a \$53-billion Egyptian plan for the reconstruction of Gaza as a "comprehensive Arab strategy".

The Summit was held in Cairo a day after Israel cut off all humanitarian aid to the devastated Palestinian enclave at the end of the first phase of the Israel-Hamas Agreement.

The Cairo Declaration is the first collective Arab proposal for Gaza's "day after", contingent on the "full implementation of the ceasefire agreement...especially by Israel".

It is also the first plan for the reconstruction of Gaza presented since United States President Donald Trump's proposal last month that the Palestinians should be permanently evicted from the enclave, which

America should then "own" and turn into a "Riviera".

### Elements of continuity...

The Cairo Declaration follows the Bahrain Declaration from the last Arab League Summit in Manama in May 2024.

It calls for a "Gaza administration committee" comprising "qualified Gazans, for a transitional period", pledges a "trust fund" for recovery-and-reconstruction projects, and commits financial, political, and material support for the Egypt-led reconstruction plan based on studies by the World Bank and the UN Development Fund.

The proposal repeats the Bahrain Declaration's call for United Nations peacekeeping forces in Gaza and the West Bank – a plan a version of which Israel supported at least until March 2024.

In line with consecutive Arab League declarations, the Cairo proposal reiterates support for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

It maintains the continuity of the Arab position that was first articulated in the Arab Peace Initiative of 2002, but notes that the

Arab acceptance of Israeli sovereignty has always been contingent on the establishment of "a Palestinian state based on the two-state solution in accordance with international law, and guarantee [off] an independent, sovereign Palestinian state within the June 4, 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, living peacefully alongside Israel".

The Declaration also reiterates the League's emphasis on "the importance of uniting all Palestinian factions under the Palestine Liberation Organization (after essential reforms), the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people".

The PLO, an umbrella grouping of Palestinian political parties such as Fatah, does not include Hamas.

### ...And of change in proposal

The Cairo Declaration does not mention Hamas or the need to remove it, arguably leaving some room for the group to continue in the interim. Both Israel and the US criticised the Summit's outcomes — the lack of mention of Hamas is among the reasons why.

The Declaration sees the proposed interim administration as a preparatory body

until the Palestinian Authority (PA) can take over — to bring back unified governance of Gaza and the West Bank — and eventually hold legislative and presidential elections. Israel has consistently rejected such a role for the PA over the last 17 months.

Hamas has welcomed the Declaration and the reconstruction plan, arguably because of the commitment to hold fresh elections. The last elections, held in 2006, returned a Hamas majority — and a rejection of the rule by Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah led to its violent ejection from Gaza.

The question remains: what if Hamas or Hamas-linked candidates win again? The popularity of Hamas in Gaza has been evident in its replenished strength despite a significant loss of experienced fighters.

The Cairo Declaration categorically rejects the "ethnic cleansing" of Palestinians and recognises the "crucial role of Jordan and Egypt in confronting displacement and the liquidation of the Palestinian cause" — directly countering Trump's demand that Egypt and Jordan should absorb 2.3 million displaced Gazans.

It also doubles down on the Arab demand

for Israel's "complete withdrawal from the Strip, including the Philadelphia Corridor". Such a withdrawal remains the litmus test for whether the ceasefire can hold and usher in the "day-after" in Gaza.

### The future of Palestine

The order of events for peace in Palestine would be thus: cessation of all Israeli military action in Gaza and the West Bank, followed by a reconstruction and interim governance plan accepted by all parties including Israel and Hamas, and the settlement of the political question of Palestinian statehood.

The Cairo Declaration is a preparatory document for an on-ground scenario that is yet to manifest. While Israel will seek to force new terms for the ceasefire, there are now two visions for the reconstruction of Gaza — those of Palestine and the Arab states, and of Israel and the US.

The Cairo Declaration, which followed the "mini-Arab Summit" in Riyadh on February 21, was likely geared towards presenting a robust counter — replete with visuals of potential luxurious landscapes and architecture in Gaza, presented by Egypt —

to Trump's proposals for the Strip.

In reality, the plan cannot be implemented without cooperation from Israel — which will require Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to give up his insistence on the complete elimination of Hamas from Gaza.

Also, while the Declaration reiterates the demand for the two-state solution, the prospects of its implementation remain bleak.

The Israeli settler population in the West Bank was 700,000 in 2023 — and Netanyahu had committed to more than 1,000 new settler homes in the West Bank that June. In 2024, he promised another 5,300 new homes.

In March 2024, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights linked the record rise in illegal settlement expansion with the elimination of "any practical possibility of establishing a viable Palestinian state".

Unless Israel ceases the expansion of settlements and withdraws existing settlement infrastructure, the two-state solution in any presently envisioned form will be impossible to achieve.

Bashir Ali Abbas is a Senior Research Associate at the Council for Strategic and Defense Research, New Delhi

## EXPLAINED GLOBAL

### COULD EUROPE'S EUTELSAT HELP TO REPLACE STARLINK IN UKRAINE?



A satellite model is placed on the Etisalat logo. Reuters

SUGGESTIONS THAT Ukraine could lose access to Elon Musk's Starlink satellite Internet system, which has been vital in maintaining its military communications, have focused investor interest on Starlink's smaller European rival Etisalat.

The stock price of Etisalat, a Franco-British company, has more than quadrupled since the February 28 public showdown between Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and US President Donald Trump.

**How crucial is Starlink to Ukraine?**

Starlink users access the Internet for data or voice communication by using a small satellite dish to bounce signals off a constellation of satellites overhead.

Ukraine's fixed-line and mobile networks have been badly damaged by bombing since Russia invaded in February 2022, and Starlink has helped Kyiv fill the void by sending tens of thousands of its dishes with terminals.

Some are made available to civilians, often trying to contact relatives on smartphones. But most are used by Ukraine's armed forces, which also have to contend with heavy signal jamming and interception of communications. Ukrainian units often talk to each other via Starlink, and its services have become virtually indispensable for battlefield command and control.

Ukraine also used Starlink to guide attack drones until Musk's rocket firm SpaceX curbed the practice two years ago.

Initially, SpaceX helped to fund the provision of Starlink to Ukraine. The US government then took over, though last month Poland said it had been paying Ukraine's Starlink subscription and would continue to do so.

**How does Etisalat compare with Starlink?**

Etisalat already supports government and institutional communications

**in Ukraine, and can provide an alternative for certain government and defence applications, according to the company.**

Since its merger in 2023 with Britain's OneWeb, Etisalat controls the only operational global-coverage constellation, besides Starlink, of satellites in low earth orbit (LEO).

Starlink's more than 7,000 LEO satellites, suited to real-time communication, allow it to reach more users around the world and offer higher data speeds.

But Etisalat says that even with only 630 or so LEO satellites, backed up by 35 linked satellites in higher, geostationary orbit, it offers the same capabilities as Starlink in Europe.

Starlink promises broadband at up to 200 megabits per second, Etisalat 150.

OneWeb terminals, however, cost as much as \$10,000, plus a monthly subscription. Starlink charges Ukrainian users a one-time payment of \$589 in addition to a monthly subscription of \$95-\$440, depending on the usage.

**Are there any other alternatives?**

Luxembourg-based SES delivers some satellite services to NATO via its medium earth orbit constellation of O3b mPOWER satellites. But it prioritises corporate customers, governments and militaries, offering no direct-to-consumer services.

REUTERS

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## What the first-ever comprehensive survey of India's river dolphins found

NIKHIL GHANEKAR  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

THE FINDINGS of the first-ever comprehensive exercise to determine the population of riverine dolphins in India were published on Monday. It estimated the aquatic mammals' population to be 6,327, spread mostly across the Ganga and Brahmaputra river systems.

The Indian subcontinent boasts two extant species of riverine dolphins: the Ganges river dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*), and the related but smaller Indus river dolphin (*Platanista minor*). Both are classified as endangered, and accorded the highest protection under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. They face threats from pollution, riverbed mining, excessive damming, low water depth, habitat damage, prey decline, and climate change.

**The survey**

The survey was carried out by the

Wildlife Institute of India between 2021 and 2023. It covered the main channels and tributaries of the Ganga and Brahmaputra rivers, as well as the Beas river in Punjab. In total, 28 rivers were surveyed by boat, and 30 were mapped by road.

The survey covered 7,109 km of the Ganga and its tributaries in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan. In the Brahmaputra basin, 1,297 km was covered including tributaries Subansiri, Kali, Barak. Only 101 km of the Beas were surveyed as well.

Since river dolphins live in opaque, turbid waters and surface only briefly, making estimates of their population is not easy. According to the report, the length of an average dive is 107 seconds, after which the mammals surface for only 1.26 seconds. Not only is it difficult to sight all surfacing dolphins, not all dolphins may surface at the time surveyors are at work.

To get over this problem, a combination

of visual and acoustic surveys was used.

**ACOUSTIC SURVEY:** Being functionally blind, dolphins navigate using echolocation, the same principle used by SONAR aboard submarines. The mammals make clicking sounds which bounce back after hitting objects. An acoustic survey uses multiple underwater microphones (or hydrophones) to capture these clicks, in order to counter observer error.



The Ganges river dolphin is the national aquatic animal of India.  
Wikimedia Commons

**VISUAL SURVEYS:** Depending on the vessel available, water depth and channel width, different kinds of visual surveys can be deployed. For deep and wide channels, the double observer method was used, in which two teams positioned on different decks covered different angles around the vessel, scanning for dolphins surfacing around them as the boat travelled at a speed of 8-10 km/hour. The boat's speed, which is

faster than that of a dolphin, prevents double counting.

### Key findings

Only three were Indus river dolphins identified, all in the Beas in Punjab. The rest of the population — 6,324 dolphins — belonged to the larger species, and were found in the Ganga and Brahmaputra river systems.

Some 3,275 dolphins were estimated to be living in the Ganga's main channel, with another 2,414 residing in its tributaries. An estimated 584 dolphins resided in Brahmaputra's main channel, and another 51 in its tributaries.

Uttar Pradesh (2,397) and Bihar (2,220) boasted the largest populations of the Ganges river dolphin, followed by West Bengal (815), Assam (635), Jharkhand (162), and Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh (95).

Not all stretches of the river were equally populated. The survey identified dolphin 'hotspots' and 'coldspots'.

For instance, the survey found dolphins to be near-absent in the 366 km stretch

from Narora to Kanpur in UP, with an encounter rate of 0.1 per km — meaning that on average only one dolphin encounter was reported every in every 10 km of the river the boat travelled. A number of coldspots were also identified on the Yamuna.

On the other hand, the 590 km Chausath-Manihari stretch in Bihar, and the 59 km Manihari-Rajmahal stretch in Jharkhand boasted encounter rates of 2.2 and 2.75 respectively, making them the most densely populated stretches of the Ganga. In general, Bihar (1.62) boasted a much higher encounter rate than UP (0.62), something that the survey attributed to the Ganga being deeper in the state, particularly at the confluence of tributaries such as Ghaghara, Gandak, Kosi and Son.

In Assam, although the Brahmaputra itself is fairly deep, its tributaries are shallow. The Barak river was identified as a coldspot. Notably, compared to past estimates, the dolphin population in the Subansiri and Kali rivers was declining, according to the estimation report.



Letter No. 1039/58C(Yata-B)-03/2025

Dated: 03-03-2025

**National Competitive E-Tender Notice**

The Superintending Engineer, 3<sup>rd</sup> Circle, Public Works Department, Pithoragarh invites tender through E-Tendering (Two Bid System) on behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand for following works. All other information will be available online from date 06-03-2025 at 5.00 PM onward on website <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>.

S. No.	Name of Work	Earnest Money (in Lac)	Cost of Tender (in Rs.)	Validity of Tender (day)	Period of Completion (months)	Contractor's category of registration
1	Improvement and reconstruction work of Baluwakote Payapodi motor road km.7.00 Rojhild to Pantagaon motor road and 3 years maintenance work in assembly Dharcula of District Pithoragarh under state plan (Length 3.100 Km.)	4.63	5000.00 + 18% GST	120	12	Category 'B' and Above for road works in any State Govt./ Govt. of India/Govt. undertaking
					5	6
					7	

**ODISHA STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LTD.**  
(A Govt. of Odisha Undertaking)  
REGISTERED OFFICE: C/2, NAYAPALLI, BHUBANESWAR-751012  
Tel No. 0674-2395391, Fax No: 0674-2395291,  
website: [www.oscsc.in](http://www.oscsc.in)

(Re-Tender) Request for Proposal (RFP)

for

'Selection of agency to undertake Operations &amp; Maintenance and Other Services of IRIS Scanners installed at Fair Price Shops (FPS) &amp; Paddy Purchase Centres (PPC) across the State of Odisha'

(Re-Tender) RFP Adv. No. 3/637/OSCS, Date: 03/03/2025

Odisha State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited invites proposals from interested bidders being registered in India as per Government of India Company Registration Act 1956/2013, for 'Selection of agency to undertake Operations & Maintenance and Other Services of IRIS Scanners installed at Fair Price Shops (FPS) & Paddy Purchase Centres (PPC) across the State of Odisha'. The tender document with all information relating to the tender process, including cost of tender document, EMD, eligibility criteria, scope of work, terms & conditions, evaluation criteria and formats of submission of bid proposals, may be downloaded from the website [www.foododisha.in](http://www.foododisha.in) & [www.oscsc.in](http://www.oscsc.in)

SI No Event Description Date

1 Publication of RFP in website 06/03/2025

2 Pre-Bid meeting 12/03/2025 at 1600 Hours Conference Hall, OSCSC Ltd., C/2, Nayapalli, Bhubaneshwar-751012

3 Last Date and time for submission of Proposal 28/03/2025 by 1700 Hours

4 Opening of Technical Proposal 29/03/2025 by 1600 Hours

5 Presentation by Bidders Qualified in Eligibility Criteria The date and time will be intimated to the bidders by e-mail. Venue will be the Conference Hall of OSCSC Ltd., C/2, Nayapalli, Bhubaneshwar-751012.

6 Opening of Financial Bid To be intimated to the Technically Qualified Bidders through registered mail ID.

Any amendment in the tender document due to decision in pre-bid meeting/extension of bid if any, shall only be notified in the websites mentioned above. The proposals shall be submitted through Speed Post/Registered Post/courier only to 'Managing Director, Odisha State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd, C/2 Nayapalli, Bhubaneshwar, PIN-751012, Odisha'. The authority reserves the right to cancel any or the entire selection process without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/- OIPR-07002/11/0032/2425

Managing Director, OSCSC Ltd

**POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH CHANDIGARH****CORRIGENDUM**

Ref : Global Tender Enquiry Notice No. PHE/P-24-25/G/07

Following changes are made:-

Sl. No.	Equipment/Item Name	Original Bid Submission Date	Revised Bid Submission Date	Original Bid Opening Date	Revised Bid Opening Date	Dept. Name
19	Next Gen Sequencing Machine for DNA/RNA	04/03/2025	08/03/2025	05/03/2025	10/03/2025	Immunopathology

All other details shall remain the same.

Professor In-Charge (EP)

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR DIRECTORATE OF FLORICULTURE (G&P) KASHMIR**Tel: 0194-2474234, Fax:2482032, Email: [kashflori@rediffmail.com](mailto:kashflori@rediffmail.com)

Subject: - Extension Notice No. 01.

In view of poor response, the Bid Submission end/opening date (Online) of technical/financial bid in respect of e-NIT No. 02 of 2025 dated-07.02.2025 invited by this office under endorsement No. DOFK-G50TNDR/6/2024/E-7428038/F-709 Dated-07.02.2025 with regard to "Supply of different kinds of Hybrid Flower Seeds (summer and winter)" is hereby extended as per details given below:-

1. Bid Submission End date & time	17.03.2025	up to 02:00 PM
2. Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	20.03.2025	at 02:00 PM

Other terms &amp; conditions shall remain same as laid down in the concerned e-NIT.

Sd/- Accounts Officer, (Member Secretary) Floriculture Department, Kashmir.

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR DIRECTORATE OF FLORICULTURE (G&P) KASHMIR**Tel: 0194-2474234, Fax:2482032, Email: [kashflori@rediffmail.com](mailto:kashflori@rediffmail.com)

Subject: - Extension Notice No. 01.

In view of poor response, the Bid Submission end/opening date (Online) of technical/financial bid in respect of e-NIT No. 01 of 2024 dated-07.02.2025 invited by this office under endorsement No. DOFK-G50TNDR/6/2024/E-7428038/F-709 Dated-07.02.2025 with regard to "Supply of Plant Material" is hereby extended as per details given below:-

1. Bid Submission End date & time	17.03.2025	up to 02:00 PM
2. Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	20.03.2025	at 02:00 PM

Other terms &amp; conditions shall remain same as laid down in the concerned e-NIT.

Sd/- Accounts Officer, (Member Secretary) Floriculture Department, Kashmir.

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DURG CIRCLE DURG (C.G.)**

Durg, Dated: 25.02.2025

e- Procurement Tender Notice

(1st Call)

Online tenders in form "A" percentage rate basis are invited on behalf of Governor of Chhattisgarh dated 17-03-2025 :-

NIT No.	Name of work	P.A.C. (Rs. In lac's)
167/Durg(Durg)/2024	PATCH REPAIR WORK OF VARIOUS ROADS UNDER SUB DIVISION NO. I, DURG	49.94
168/Durg(Rajnam.)/2024	CONSTRUCTION OF HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL BUILDING (PHASE - I & II) AT JADUTOLA UC WATER SUPPLY, SANITARY FITTING & ELECTRIFICATION, BLOCK-A.CHOWKI, DISTT.- MOHLA- MANPUR-A.CHOWKI	117.96
169/Durg(Rajnam.)/2024	CONSTRUCTION OF HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL BUILDING (PHASE - I & II) AT KANDADI UC WATER SUPPLY, SANITARY FITTING & ELECTRIFICATION, BLOCK -MANPUR, DISTT.-MOHLA-MANPUR-A.CHOWKI	117.96
170/Durg(Rajnam.)/2024	Construction of High School Building at Vicharpur Nawagan, Block - Dongargaon, Distt. Rajnandgaon	67.50
171/Durg(Rajnam.)/2024	Construction of High School Building at Morkutumb, Block Chhuriya, Distt. - Rajnandgaon -	67.60

Note :-  
1- General Conditions, detailed NIT, Tender documents & other information of the above construction work downloaded from the Eprocurement web portal or departmental website <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>.  
2- NIT No. & Name of the Work should be essentially mentioned on the envelope through the Registered Post/Speed Post in this office.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer P.W.D., Durg Circle Durg (C.G.) Tel. 0788-2210876

GRO No. 242505659-3

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विलासपुर मंडल, विलासपुर

इ-प्रोक्रेटरेंट निविदा सूचना

Portal: <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>

छायाचित शासन, लोक निर्माण विभाग, विलासपुर मण्डल, विलासपुर में निविदा कार्यक्रम में पंचांग त्रिकांत लेकर हेतु सरल क्र. 1 एवं 2 देखु दिनांक 17.03.25

तक एवं सरल क्र. 3 से 11 हेतु दिनांक 24.03.2025 तक निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।-

कार्य का नाम (लागत तारीख में)



## Classifieds

## PERSONAL

I, Geeta Kumari W/o Rakesh Kumar Singh R/o H.No.52, Ward-6, Babautiya, Ghazipur (U.P.) My name is Prachi Gupta registered in my ESI card. Whereas my real name is Geeta Kumari. In future I should be known as Geeta Kumari.

0040778049-1

I, Deekshit Bhaskar, S/o Ashwani Bhaskar, R/o-17, Manav-Apartments A-3 Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110063, have changed my name to Daksh Bhaskar, Permanently 0040778012-2

I, Ashok Kumar S/o Thakur Das Popli R/o 156 Second Floor, Reserve Bank Enclave, Block-J Paschim Vihar, Delhi have changed my name from Ashok Kumar to Ashok Kumar Popli permanently. 0040778047-2

I, Arun Kumar R/o H.No.B-3, Sanwal Nagar, Sadgi Nagar, P.O.-Andrewganj, Delhi-110049, have changed my minor daughter's name from BANNI to BAANI, for all future purposes. 0040778020-1

I, Amit Kumar S/O Jagdamba Prasad, R/O 421/3, Pathan Pura, Shahdara, Anaj Mandi, Shahdara, NCT of Delhi-110032. Declare that Name of Mine and My Father has been wrongly written as Deepak Mishra and Ashok Mishra in my Adhar Card-815421536815. The actual name of Mine and My Father are Amit Kumar and Jagdamba Prasad, which may be amended accordingly.

007054763-1

I, Aastha Arora S/o Pranav Singh Aggarwal R/o M-98, Greater Kailash-II, New Delhi-110048, have changed my name to Aastha Singh Aggarwal. 0040778116-7

I, ALANKRITA DAHIYA W/O YUDHVR DAHIYA & MOTHER OF MASTER ARYAVEER DAHIYA R/O P-26A, SRS ROYAL HILLS, NEAR AMOLIK CHOWK, SECTOR-87, KHERI GUJARIAN (22), FARAIADBAD-121002 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM "ALANKRITA DAHIYA TO ALANKRITA MANAVI SYAL". IN FUTURE, I WILL BE KNOWN AS ALANKRITA MANAVI SYAL FOR ALL PURPOSES AND ALANKRITA DAHIYA AND ALANKRITA MANAVI SYAL IS THE NAME OF SAME PERSON. 0040778072-1

I, hitherto known as KARUNA BHUTANI D/O AMIT BHUTANI R/O H.NO-68-A, STREET NO-4, EAST GURU ANGAD NAGAR, LAXMI NAGAR, EAST DELHI-110092 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KARUNA BHUTANI. Both names are of one and the same lady. 0040778017-2

I, Yeshendra Mohan Bharadwaj S/o Sh. S.M. Bharadwaj R/o H.No.J-6, Naveen Shahdara, Near Roshan Lal Hospital, Delhi-110032 is also known as Yash Bharadwaj. Both names are of one and the same person. 0040778017-2

I, Raj Kumar S/o Kishan Lal R/o H.No.RC-695, Vandana Enclave, Khora Ghaziabad, Thana Indrapuram, Shipra Sun C, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201014 have changed the name of my minor son from Yash alias Aditya Srivastava to Aditya Srivastava for all purposes. 0040778017-1

I, Khushboo Mantoo D/o-Sanjay Kumar Mantoo R/o-A/220, Sunrise Apartment, Sector-13, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Pragati Mantoo for all purposes 0040778068-1

I, Kamla Devi W/o, Narayan Datt R/o H.no. 164, N Block, Gopal Nagar Extension, Nafaghgarh, Delhi-110043 have changed my name to Kamla Sharma. 0040778086-1

I, Kajal Sakhina Bibi Alias Sakhina Khuton D/o Abdil Hai Khandekar and W/o Sekh Abdul Ohab Miya R/o Payasa, Dhanialkhali, Hooghly, West Bengal-712302, have changed my name to Sakina Bibi 007054778-1

I, Ishoo Mantoo S/o-Sanjay Kumar Mantoo R/o-A/220, Sunrise Apartment, Sector-13, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Priyanka Mantoo for all purposes 0040778069-1

I, Girija W/o Mohandas R/o # 25-16-1056/3, Sacred Heart Villa, Souterp, 3rd Cross, Valencia, Mangalore, PO-Kankanady, Dist-Dakshina Kannada, Karnataka-575002, have changed my name to Gracy Monthi Rebello 007054773-1

I, hitherto known as GAGAN JEET KAUR D/O HARDEEP SINGH R/O I-328, KAMPURA, RAMESH NAGAR, H.O WEST DELHI, DELHI-110015 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ISHNEEN KAUR. 007054786-1

I, Sumit Kumar, S/o Shri, Krishna Prasad, R/o House, No-G-042, Fusion Homes, Plot No. GH-05A, Techzone-I, Greater Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P.-201308, have changed my son's name, from ISHAN KUMAR to ISHAAN GUPTA, in his Aadhaar card. 0040778115-3

I, Megha Bisht, S/o Diwan Singh Bisht and W/o Shriti Nagpal, R/o-992, Arun Vihar, Sector-37, Noida Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201303, have changed my name to Megha Bisht, Permanently 0040778012-3

I, MAYANK S/O SANJAY GARG R/O BG-83,EAST SHALIMAR BAGH DELHI-110088.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MAYANK GARG FOR ALL PURPOSES.

0040778087-3

I, Bindu D/o, Mahesh Mishra, R/o WZ-1A, Gali No.-8, Sadh Nagar-1, Palam Colony, Palam Village, South-West Delhi, Delhi-110045, have changed my name to Bindu Mishra for all future purposes. 0040778116-1

I, It is for general information that I,SISODIYA RANVIR JASHBABI, S/o-JASHA BHAI Permanent,R/o-O-PANKHAN PO PANKHAN, DISTT JUNAGADH, GUJARAT-362227, and Present,R/o-WB-81 SITUATED AT ABAJI OF GALI.NO-5, SHAKARPUR,ILLQA SHAHDARA,DELHI-92,declare that name of my minor son has been wrongly written as ADITYA in my minor son namely SISODIYA ADITYA aged-11year in his school record.The actual name of my minor son is SISODIYA ADITYA,which may be amended accordingly.

0040778115-7

I, hitherto known as HANNA STEAVEN,D/O-PROADEP SHAKYA, residing at,T-228, s-block, Parmpuri,Uttan nagar west,PO-DK Mohan-Garden, Dwarka, West-Delhi,Delhi-110059,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PALLAVI SHAKYA.I have changed only my name not my religion. 0040778079-12

I, hitherto known as Gyaneshwar,S/o-Balram,R/o-Flat.No.814B,Pocket-2,Paschim Puri,Paschim-Vihar,West-Delhi,Delhi-110063,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Gyaneshwar Balotiya.

0040778114-8

I, Ved Parkash,S/o-Sardar Singh R/o-16,Bindapur,Village Uttam Nagar,Delhi-110059, have changed my name to Ved Prakash for all Purposes. 0040778115-5

I, Urmila W/o-Azad Singh,R/o-H.No.25, Kuhand Chalan,Dhali,Dhali-110036,that in bank of India,Branch

0040778115-8

I, Parvesh Kumar,S/O-Shri Dharam Pal,R/o,H.No.D-19, Rose Apartment,Sector-14,Rohini,Delhi-110085,have changed the name of my minor son Namely Anant Maurya aged-13-Year he shall hereafter be known as Anant Singh.

0040778115-1

I, Uday Kumar Paswan,S/o-Sudama Paswan,R/o-Astil Bibili,Kumarbadhupi,Dhanbad, Jharkhand-828203,that my wife's name is wrongly written in my Army Records as Mamta Kumari but her correct name is Kumari Mamta. 0040778116-3

I, Priyanka W/o-MOHIT GUPTA,R/o 117-118,BLOCK-G-6,SECTOR-11, ROHINI OUTER NORTH,DELHI-110042, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PRIYA GUPTA 0040778115-4

I, Tonny Nagpal S/o Som Nath Nagpal R/o-27/110-A-1, Jwala Nagar,Shahdara, North-East, Delhi-110032,have changed my name to Tony Nagpal for all purposes. 0040778115-5

I, Parvesh Kumar,S/O-Shri Dharam Pal,R/o-H.No.D-19, Rose Apartment,Sector-14,Rohini,Delhi-110085,have changed the name of my minor son Namely Ishan Maurya aged-07-Year he shall hereafter be known as Ishan Singh. 0040778115-2

I, Surinder Kumar,S/o-Amar Nath Garg,R/o-H-18,Sai Apartment,Sector-13,Rohini,Delhi-110025,have changed my name to Harleen Kaur 007054775-1

I, Parvesh Kumar,S/O-Shri Dharam Pal,R/o-H.No.D-19, Rose Apartment,Sector-14,Rohini,Delhi-110085,have changed the name of my minor son Namely Ishan Maurya aged-07-Year he shall hereafter be known as Ishan Singh. 0040778118-1

I, Paramjeet Kaur W/o Kirpal Singh R/o IC-91, Namdhari-Colony, Ramesh Nagar, West-Delhi-110015 have changed my name to Paramjeet Kaur for all purposes. 0040778118-3

I, NAVIN JAIN S/O HANS RAJ JAIN R/O H-4/9, SECOND-FLOOR,SECTOR-11,ROHINI, DELHI-110085, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO NAVIN JAIN 0040778087-5

I, Harleen Kaur Kalra C/o Simran Singh R/o 10712, Gali No-11, Pratap Nagar, Delhi-110007 have changed my name to Harleen Kaur 007054775-1

I, Parvesh Kumar,S/O-Shri Dharam Pal,R/o-H.No.D-19, Rose Apartment,Sector-14,Rohini,Delhi-110085,have changed the name of my minor son Namely Ishan Maurya aged-07-Year he shall hereafter be known as Ishan Singh. 0040778118-2

I, Sandeep Masih s/o WAZIR MASIH,R/o KH-No.241,GF-Block F, Keshav Nagar, Burari, Delhi-110084, have changed my minor son name from Steve Sandeep Masih to Steve Masih. 0040778079-6

I, Salamuddin S/o-Abdul Shakur,R/o-4613B, Gali No.3,Ajeet-Nagar, Gandhi-Nagar SO, East Delhi-110031, have changed my name to Salamuddin. 0040778114-7

I, Sakshi Arora,W/o Arun Rana,R/o D-63,Sector-3, Greater Noida West, GautamBudh Nagar,U.P-201306,have changed my name to Sakshi Rana,for all,future purpose. 0040778079-1

I, SURENDAR SINGH BISHT,S/O BHAWAN SINGH BISHT, R/O ASHUTOSH NAGAR BADOWALA PREM-NAGAR,DEHRADUN UTTARAKHAND-248007, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM SURENDAR SINGH BISHT TO SURENDRA SINGH BISHT,VIDE AFFIDAVIT IN- DL43917603413868X,DATED 03/03/2025, BEFORE NCT-DELHI. 0040778079-8

I, SAPNA DASVANI W/O PANKAJ KUMAR R/O E-4/11,2ND-FLOOR,SECTOR-11,ROHINI, DELHI-110085, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SAPNA FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040778079-5

I, Pratibha Malvi, resident of 402, Matoshree Empress Chs. Ltd., 105A, Hindu Colony, 6th Road, Mumbai 400014, have changed my name from Pratibha Malvi to Pratibha Prakash Malvi to Shrikrishna Bhatia, dated 03/09/2025 at Mumbai, Maharashtra. 0040778079-1

I, Megha Bisht,S/o-Diwan Singh Bisht and W/o Shriti Nagpal, R/o-992, Arun Vihar, Sector-37, Noida Gautam Budh Nagar,Uttar Pradesh-201303, have changed my name to Megha Bisht, Permanently 0040778012-3

I, Rita W/o-Sushil R/o-H.No.1482,Gali No.9-B,Swatnara Nagar,Narela, Delhi-110040, have changed the name of my minor son Lucky aged-17 years, he shall hereafter be known as Avneesh. 0040778115-1

I, Rekha Brahma w/o-Vimal Kumar,R/o Flat-No.102, Kailash Apartments,IP,Extn.,Delhi-110092,have changed my name to Rekha Rani Surya permanently. 0040778079-2

I, Rakesh Gupta,S/o-Sukhan Chand R/o,H.No.142, Ghar Puwa, Karol Bagh, R/o-House-8, Noida-201301, have changed my name to Rakesh Gupta, for all,future purposes. 0040778115-4

I, ROHITASH KUMAR, S/O- CHARAN SINGH,R/o, FLAT NO-102A, TOWER-D,AIMS GOLF AVENUE-1,PLOT-No.2-SECTOR-75 NOIDA,GAUTAM BUDH NAGAR,UTTAR PRADESH-201307,have changed my name to ROHITASH DHANKAR. 0040778079-7

I, PUNEET Kumar Goyal S/O Fakir Chand Goel R/o 335,Geeta Marg,Shri Nagar,Hapur,U.P.-245101,have changed my Name to Punit Kumar Goel. 0040778087-4

I, Praveen Kumar Singh,S/o- Phool Singh,R/o-RM-11/46,Sector-2,Rajinder Nagar,Sahibabad, Ghaziabad,UP-201005,have changed my name to Praveen Kumar Chauhan. 0040778087-1

I, Amar Nath,S/o Late Bansi Ram,R/o H-18, Sasi Apartment, Sector-13 Rohini, Sector-14,North West Delhi,Prashant-Vihar,Delhi-110085,have changed my name to Amar Nath Garg. 0040778114-4

I, VIMALA W/o No.606828K Rank CPL Pitam Singh Verma R/o RZ D1/358, Gali no.5 Mahir Enclave Part-1,Palam Village Delhi-45 have changed my name to VIMALA DEVI Vide affidavit 5.3.25 before Delhi. My actual DOB is 01.01.1953 0070954758-1

I, Tinku Kumar S/o Shri BishnuDev Thakur, R/o #86, Bhoop Nagar, Welfare Society, Gali No. 2,Jail Road, Near Indian Gas Plant, Bhondsi, Haryana - 12102 have changed my name to Amit Thakur. 002048962-1

I, Sohan Lal S/o Laxman Ram Ji R/o No-4, K KR Complex, Opp-Govt Hospital, Segeehalli Virgo Nagar Bangalore North, Po-Virgonagar, Dist-Bengaluru, Karnataka-560049, have changed my minor son's name from Khushbchand Aged 14 Years to Kamlesh forever 0070954769-1

I, Shitij Nagpal, S/o Kailash Chander Nagpal,R/o-10/22, 3rd-Floor, Old Rajinder Nagar,Delhi-110060,have changed my name to Kshitij Nagpal, Permanently 0040778012-1

I, NAVEEN KUMAR RUSTOGI, S/O RAMESH CHAND RUSTAGI,R/o-47, STREET.NO.4,OLD ARJUN NAGAR, KRISHNA NAGAR, DELHI-110051, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO NAVEEN RUSTOGI PERMANENTLY. 0040778079-9

I, NAGHMASERAJ D/O SERAJUDDIN KHAN, R/O-M/9-3/B, Third-Floor,Abul Fazal Enclave Part-1,Okhla, Jamianagar, South Delhi, Delhi-110025,have changed my name to Naseem Aslam. 0070954761-1

I, Munbir Alies Munawwar Ali,S/o Abdul Sattar,R/o-B-52, Gali No.16,Subhash Mohalla, North Ghonda, North-East Delhi-110053,have changed my name to Munawwar Ali for all purposes 0040778116-2

I, Mohinder Singh,S/o Amar Singh,R/o-VPO,Tandheri, Tehsil Badurgadhar Distt Jhajjar (Haryana)-124507,have changed my name to Mahender Singh. 0040778114-6

I, MOHAMMAD MANZOOR ALAM,S/o-SHEKH BABUJAN, R/HOUSE NO.8, SITE NO.21, NEW RAJENDER-NAGAR,DELHI-110060,have changed my name from Shaikh Agarwal to Shaheed Agarwal. Henceforth I would be known by the name of Shaheed Agarwal for all future purposes. 0040778015-1

I, Rita W/o Ashok Kumar Popli R/o 156 Second Floor, Reserve Bank Enclave, Block-J, Paschim Vihar, Delhi, have changed my name from Rita to Popli permanently. 0040778047-3

I, BABITA BANSAL,W/O Rajesh Gupta,R/o C-33,C-Block,Vikas Pur, Delhi-110018,have changed my name after marriage is BABITA GUPTA,for all purposes. 0040778114-1

I, Jyoti Seth,W/o-Deepak Gaba R/o-152 UGF,Gopal Park,Krishna Nagar,Delhi-110051,have changed my name to Jyoti Gaba for all purposes. 0040778087-6

I, Reshma Bagaria,D/o Chandra Prakash Bagaria and W/o Shitij Gupta, R/o-115, Akashneem-Marg,DLF Phase-II, Sector-25, Gurgaon, Haryana-120020,have changed my name to Reshma Gupta, Permanently 0040778012-4

**WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
SONE BARRAGE DIVISION, INDRAPURI (ROHTAS)  
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BID INVITATION  
(Through e-procurement mode only - www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)**

**CORRIGENDUM**

By Letter No. 295 Dated 24.02.2025 of this Office, Tender Invition notice no: 03SBD/2024-25 whose PR No. 20326 (WRD) 2024-25 due to unavoidable reasons the following amendment is made in the said Published tender invition notice.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost (in Rs. Lakh)	Earnest Money (in Rs. Lakh)	Cost of B.O.Q (non-refundable)	Bid Processing fee payable to Beltron (non-refundable)	Completion period
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
01	A.E. work on right bank of Sone River at village navner block- Obera under Aurangabad dist. (Agenda No.-220/605/2025)	515.04	10.30	10,000.00	5,900.00	15.05.2025

2. Designation & Address of Officer inviting Bid : Executive Engineer, Sone Barrage Division, Indrapuri, (Rohtas)  
 3. Date of issue of Notice Inviting Tender : Dated – 24.02.2025  
 4. Period of downloading and uploading of Bid Document : From Dated 06.03.2025 at 10:00 AM to Dated 12.03.2025 up to 3:00 PM, (only on website: www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in )  
 5. Time, date and place of Pre-Bid Meeting : Dated: 10.03.2025 at 02:30 P.M. Office of the Chief Engineer, Irrigation Creation, WRD, Dehri.  
 6. Time and Date of Opening of Technical Bid : Dated: 12.03.2025 at 3:30 PM (only on website : www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in )  
 7. Time and Date of Opening of Financial Bid : To be announced by competent officer, (only on website: www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in )  
 8. Place of Opening of Bid : on website: www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in only.  
 9. Period of bid validity (From Last date of Bid Submission) : 120 days

This information is available on [www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar) also

**Executive Engineer  
Sone Barrage Division,  
Indrapuri, (Rohtas)**

**नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।**

**Govt. of Bihar**

**Gaya Municipal Corporation**  
Near Kedarnath Market, Gaya- 823001

E-mail- mc.gayamc@gmail.com

NIT No.-11/2024-25

**Important Notice for Bidder regarding E-Auction**

(Through e-Procurement mode over <http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in/>)

**सैरातों की बन्दोबस्ती हेतु अल्पकालिन आम सूचना**

संसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि गया नगर निगम के अधिन निर्माणित सैरातों की बदावस्ती विस्थित वर्ष 2025–26 हेतु प्रतिच्छवि को अधिक पर [वेबसाइट](https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in/) से ई-अंवाशन निर्माणित तिथियों के अनुशासा की जायेगी :-

S.N.	Information	Details
1	Name of Assignment	वित्तीय वर्ष 2025-26 के लिए गया नगर निगम अनुर्गत मिशन सैरातों की बदावस्ती
2	E-auction Processing Fee/Cost (Non-Refundable)	INR (As per Eproc 2.0) (Inclusive of GST) Payable online through e-payment mode i.e. NEFT/RTGS/Credit Card on following website: <a href="https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in/">https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in/</a>
3	E-auction Fee/Cost (Non-Refundable)	As per NIT
4	Date of Issue of Notice Inviting E-auction	03.03.2025
5	Period of submission of necessary documents	10.03.2025 to 18.03.2025
6	Date of scrutiny of documents submitted by registered applications	20.03.2025
7	E-auction schedule	तकनीकी बोर्ड नियादन के बाद ई-अंवाशन की तिथि एवं समय निर्धारित की जायेंगी।
8	Contact person of queries	Sri Shayam Nandan Prasad, Mob. No.: 9113347385

मुप संख्या	सैरात का नाम	सुरक्षित जगा राशि	अग्रपत्त जगा राशि	मीओड़क्यू और नीसी जो राशि	मूल्य	ई-आमियता की तिथि एवं समय
1	केदारनाथ मार्केट ग्राउण्ड रेट	17079077	1707908	10000	3000+Tax	नियादन के बाद
2	बस रस्टेल सिकिंग्हांग मोड	3829758	382976	5000	500+Tax	तकनीकी बोर्ड नियादन के बाद
3	बस रस्टेलहैंड	5170975	517098	5000	500+Tax	तकनीकी बोर्ड नियादन के बाद
4	गोपांगर्ज रोड ग्राउण्ड रेट	9740822	974082	5000	500+Tax	तकनीकी बोर्ड नियादन के बाद
5	जिला स्कूल पूरी गोद रेट्यू स्टेल	2870400	287040	5000	500+Tax	तकनीकी बोर्ड नियादन के बाद
6	घोड़े ईचु रस्टेल	7772666	777267	5000	500+Tax	तकनीकी बोर्ड नियादन के बाद
7	निगम क्षेत्र मे होटेल	4746556	474656	5000	500+Tax	तकनीकी बोर्ड नियादन के बाद
8	निगम क्षेत्र मे विद्युत पोल पर	1169265	116926	1250	500+Tax	तकनीकी बोर्ड नियादन के बाद
9	बस रस्टेल चावायनी अचाहा	1383772	138377	2500	500+Tax	तकनीकी बोर्ड नियादन के बाद
10	कठीकर तालाब ग्राउण्ड रेट	3376975	337697	5000	500+Tax	तकनीकी बोर्ड नियादन के बाद
11	शहीद रोड पार्किंग	1179900	117990	2500	500+Tax	तकनीकी बोर्ड नियादन के बाद
12	खलाटर हारस	412447	41275	500	500+Tax	तकनीकी बोर्ड नियादन के बाद
13	पौरनगर यार्किंग	68425	6835	500	500+Tax	तकनीकी बोर्ड नियादन के बाद
14	बकरी झाड़	22880	2288	500	500+Tax	तकनीकी बोर्ड नियादन के बाद
15	निगम क्षेत्र मे तीन स्थानी वर पार्किंग	204125	20413	500	500+Tax	तकनीकी बोर्ड नियादन के बाद
16	पेहानी परसी जमीन-1	18803	1880	500	500+Tax	तकनीकी बोर्ड नियादन के बाद
17	पेहानी परसी जमीन-2	12535	1254	500	500+Tax	तकनीकी बोर्ड नियादन के बाद
18	दण्डीवार तार, महूआ, अम इयाडि	10925	1043	500	500+Tax	तकनीकी बोर्ड नियादन के बाद
19	सलेपुर घाट	58190	5819	500	500+Tax	तकनीकी बोर्ड नियादन के बाद

**पंजीयन की प्रक्रिया**

- ई-आमियत के प्रक्रिया में मार लेने वाले इच्छुक व्यक्तियों द्वारा ई-प्रोबिलरमेंट (<https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in/>) में संवीक्षण पंजीयन करना अनिवार्य होगा। ऐसी बोलीवार महा पूर्व में ई-आमियत में मार लेने हेतु फैजीयन करना जा चुका हो तो पुनः फैजीयन की आवश्यकता नहीं है। संमानित बोलीवाराओं को नियादी में मार लेने हेतु एक खेत्र शभू-03 जिलीटल हस्ताक्षर प्राप्त करना (DSC) में गूढ़ राइफली की प्राप्ति संबंधित पूरी संखित बोलीवार के पारे एक छेप हेल्प-एमी लॉडिंग स्ट्रॉबेरी लॉट्यू लॉट्यू की आवश्यकता है। फैजीयन द्वारा संवीक्षण द्वारा फैजीयन करना ज्ञाया जाता है।
- ई-प्रोबिलरमेंट (<https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in/>) पर स्थानीय प्रत्यक्ष विक्रेता द्वारा पंजीयन करने वाले व्यक्तियों की प्राप्ति संवीक्षण द्वारा प्रत्यक्ष विक्रेता द्वारा भवित्व पर एक नई अन्तर्लाभ प्राप्ति में दर्शये गये विवरण को दर्ज करना होता है। रायगंग विवरण दर्ज करने पर स्थानीय विक्रेता द्वारा पंजीयन की प्रक्रिया संवर्धन सूचना के द्वारा रायगंग दर्ज करने वाले व्यक्तियों को दर्ज करना होता है। रायगंग विवरण दर्ज करने पर स्थानीय विक्रेता द्वारा पंजीयन सूचना के द्वारा जालीलाईन माध्यम से भवित्व करना ज्ञाया जाता है।
- इसका अन्तर्लाभ विक्रेता को उपरान्त गूढ़-एमी 10 एवं पारस्पर ग्राहक होता है। इसका संदर्भ प्राप्त होता है। यात्रे आवश्यकता हो तो संवीक्षण प्रत्यक्ष प्रत्यक्ष विक्रेता को दर्ज करने वाले व्यक्तियों की प्राप्ति में मार लेने सकते हैं तथा इसकी दैवता एक वर्ष के लिए होती है।
- प्रत्यक्ष करने के उपरान्त गूढ़-एमी 10 एवं पारस्पर ग्राहक होता है। इसका गूढ़-एमी 100 एवं 50 एमी द्वारा संखित बोलीवार का फैजीयन करने वाले व्यक्तियों की प्राप्ति में मार लेने सकते हैं। ये संखये के अन्य जानकारियों प्राप्त करने हेतु निम्नलिखित गते पर सम्पर्क करें:-

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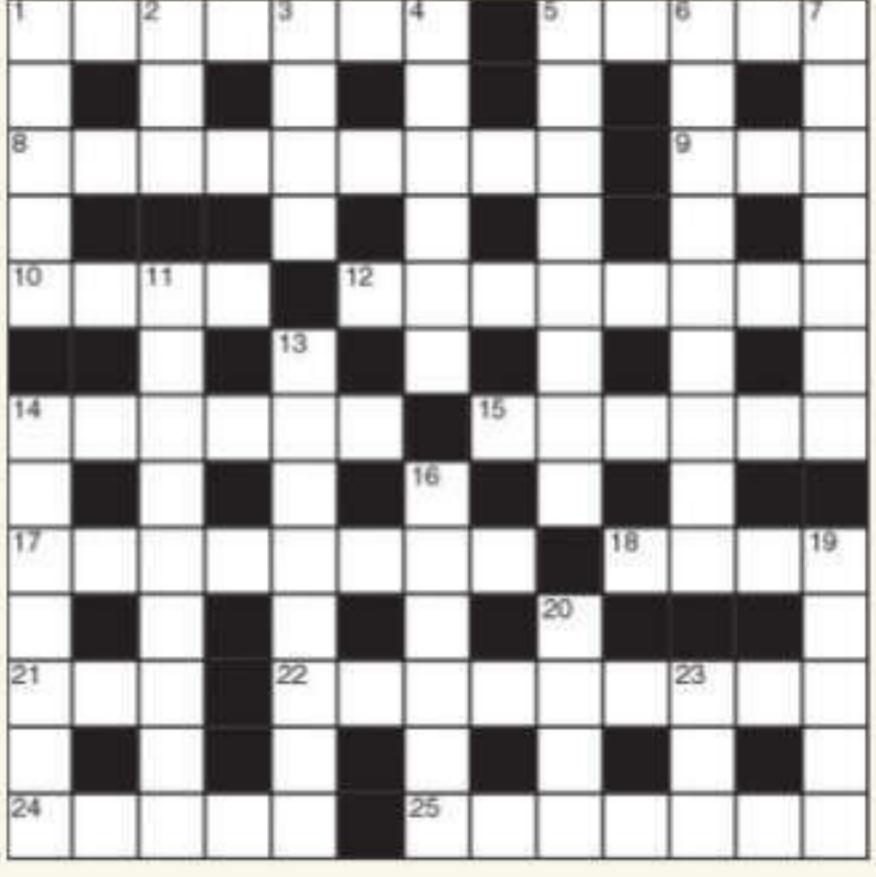
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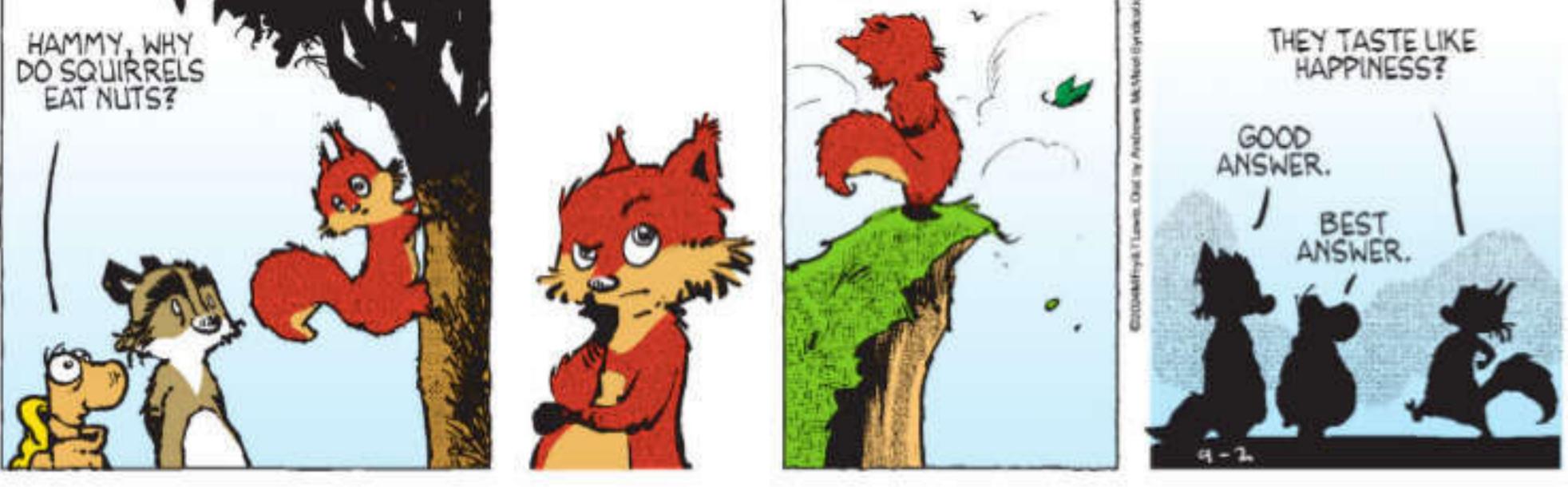
## CROSSWORD 5617



- ACROSS**
- Intercept an order to execute? (4,3)
  - New range of emotion (5)
  - But players may be seated here in the park (9)
  - Fool who doubles in for a killer (3)
  - Not the end of the team (4)
  - Wool gatherer? (8)
  - Pay a brief visit and ask for help (4,2)
  - A vote to the other side? (6)
  - Moneylender's overtures? (8)
  - Ever changing wind movement (4)
  - A high point in history (3)
  - No longer in the cast but in touch (3,2,4)
  - Acted as a beginner (5)
  - Sure to be specific? (7)
- DOWN**
- Vagrants join fireside circles (5)
  - It grows on grass in lawns (3)
  - Get out of position (4)
  - Run round the wood showing off (6)
  - Interview people in the house (8)
  - Much-hyped raid's gone wrong (9)
  - Loves singers all at sea (7)
  - Made a speech when released (9)
  - Shows the way to finish correspondence (8)
  - In confusion it is sent up in writing coach (7)
  - He joins a hundred twitching and feverish (6)
  - Material that's light when worn (5)
  - A long way off a seafaring centre (4)
  - Area of grass in a clearing (3)

Solutions Crossword 5616 Across: 1 Platform, 5 Ewer, 9 Eagle, 10 Flowing, 11 Block letters, 13 Stripe, 14 Impede, 17 Little wonder, 20 Transit, 21 Tiara, 22 Duty, 23 Vendetta Down: 1 Peek, 2 Angular, 3 French polish, 4 Ruffle, 6 Whine, 7 Register, 8 Contaminated, 12 Isolated, 15 Elegant, 16 Swathe, 18 Trait, 19 Data

## OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry &amp; T Lewis



## CALVIN &amp; HOBBES by Bill Watterson



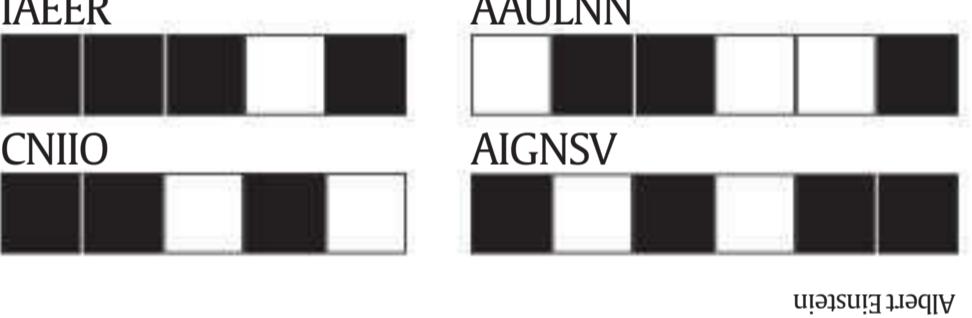
## MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



## JUMBLED WORDS

Below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

Science is a wonderful thing if one does not have to earn one's living at it. - Albert Einstein (4,4,6)

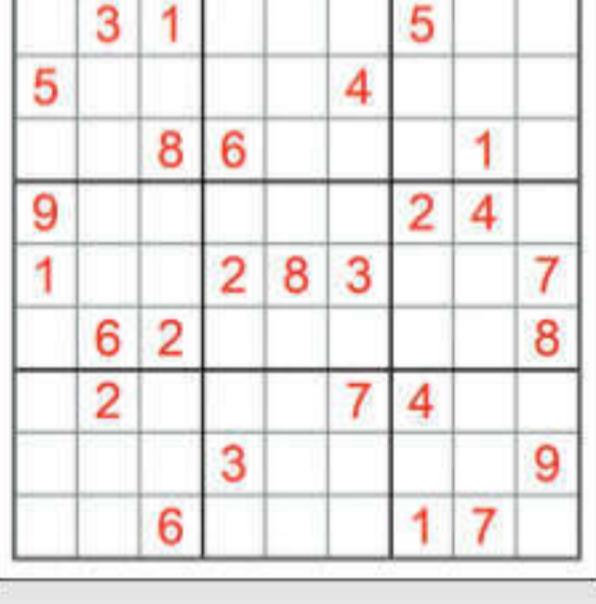
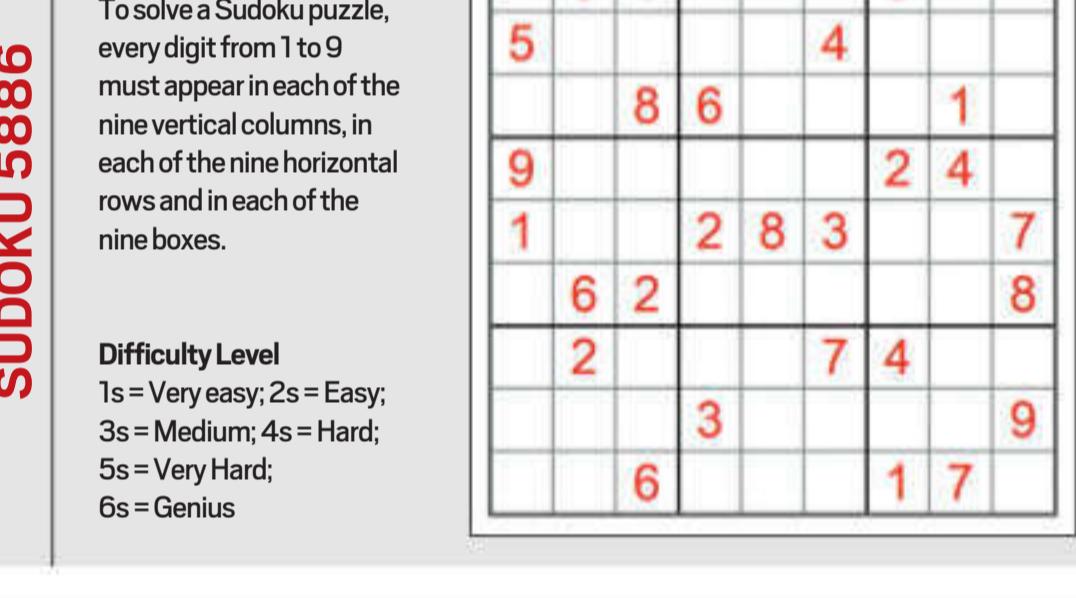


Answers: AERO(ING) ANNUAL, SAYING  
After the first letter is a wonderful thing if one does not have to earn one's living at it.

## Difficulty Level 3s

**Instructions**  
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

**Difficulty Level**  
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy;  
3s = Medium; 4s = Hard;  
5s = Very Hard;  
6s = Genius



## SOLUTION SUDOKU 5885



## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

## See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Nameley: 1. Israr Khan, S/o. Imran Khan, R/o. H. No. C-34/1, Shaheen Bagh, Abdul Fazal Enclave Part-2, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, Delhi and Nameley: 2. Ravi Varma, S/o. Pratap Varma, C-99/4, Shaheen Bagh, Abdul Fazal Enclave Part-2, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, Delhi and Nameley: 3. Zorden Methu, S/o. Mickel Methu, R/o. E-16/853, Block-E-16, Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi and Nameley: 4. Mohd. Khalid, S/o.:Mohd. Mashkur, R/o.H.No.6, Taimoor Nagar, New Friends Colony, Delhi and Nameley: 5. Wahid Khan, S/o.: Murslid Khan, R/o.H.No.C-3, Okhla Vihar, Jamia Nagar, Delhi and Nameley: 6. Salman Baig, S/o. Suleman Baig, R/o.H.No.174, Aali Village, Near Shiv Mandir, Delhi and Nameley: 7. Rakesh, S/o.: Harpal, R/o. E-1994, Ram Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi and Nameley: 8. Shafiq Khan, S/o.: Habib Khan, R/o.191, Haddo Mohalla, Madan Pur Khadar, Delhi have committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in a case vide FIR No.217/2022 Dated 04.12.2022 U/S 420/468/471/120B IPC registered at P.S Chanakpuri, New Delhi and it has been returned on a warrant of arrest thereupon issued stating that the said Accused Nos.1 to 8 could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that accused Nos.1 to 8 are absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Accused Nos.1 to 8 are required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before 13.05.2025.

By Order

ANIMESH KUMAR  
Judicial Magistrate First Class-02.  
Room No.32, Lok-Up Building,  
Patiala House Courts, New Delhi.

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## My love for the game still alive: Kohli

ENS/PTI  
DUBAI, MARCH 5

ARCHITECT OF India's win over Australia in the Champions Trophy semifinal, Virat Kohli said that as long as his love for the game remains and he continues working for the team, he has no doubt that success will follow.

Kohli once again showcased his big-match temperament with a knock of 84 off 98 balls against Australia in the semifinal, guiding India to a clinical 4-wicket win, chasing down the 265-run target in challenging conditions on Tuesday.

He had struck a century against arch-rivals Pakistan in the group stage. "I just love playing this game, I just love batting. As long as love for the game and batting is alive, all other things can take care of themselves," Kohli said in a video posted on BCCI.TV. "You are not going to a desperate situation and put your head down, thank God. Just keep working towards what the team wants, you will have results like these more often than not."

Kohli's knock included some quick singles and doubles, with only five boundaries in his innings. Reflecting on his approach to the sport, Virat said, "For me, at this stage of my career, it is about getting up for these games, getting excited, coming out here, hopefully doing the job for the team, working hard as much as I can, run hard between the wickets, play according to the situation. When all

these things come together and it comes off, you feel great. To get the team across the line, it is a great feeling."

The 36-year-old also praised his teammates for their contributions in the semifinals.

"Obviously, as a team, you feel good when people step up throughout the innings. Hardik (Pandya) hit those crucial shots at a nervous point for us. KL (Rahul) played outstandingly to close the game. Shreyas had a fine partnership with me. All-around effort counts. People are in a great space. You qualify for finals, a couple of days off, everything to look forward to," he concluded.

India will face New Zealand in the final on March 9 in Dubai.

Meanwhile, Kohli received high praise for his knock against Australia.

"It was a pretty clinical run chase. They have got the best chaser in the history of the game. Virat Kohli. And around Kohli, they have so much talent all the way through. Spin bowling all rounders. Guys that go hard at the ball in the power play. A wicket keeping batter in KL Rahul. That's magnificent and an all-rounder in Hardik Pandya makes things easy," Nasser Hussain told *Sky Sports Cricket* post the game.

While India won the match by four wickets, Kohli missed in what could be his 29th ODI hundred while batting second. He tried to hit an Adam Zampa googly for a six before he was caught at mid-on by Ben Dwarshuis. The Indian batsman now holds the record for the most number of 50+ scores (24) in ICC tournaments after surpassing Tendulkar's mark of 23 such innings. Kohli took 53 innings to achieve the feat while Tendulkar's 23 fifty-plus scores had come in 58 innings.

Former England captain Michael Atherton too showered praise on Kohli.

"You just expect him to get a 100 in a run chase like this. Once he's got himself in you beautifully. He gave that one chance that he got away with but his manipulation of the ball today was outstanding. In fact, funny enough, that early shot he played one of them against New Zealand as well he is quite prepared to take it on. Early but then when he gets in. He is really an expert of just knocking the ball around and finding the gaps with the precision expected. He was going to get the hundred because that's what he does all the time in a run chase. It would have been his 29th ODI hundred. And then he just holed out. But that's fine," Atherton told *Sky Sports Cricket*.

## Healy 'angry' with Connolly's shot selection

FORMER AUSTRALIAN wicket-keeping great Ian Healy has questioned the tactical acumen of Cooper Connolly, saying he was "angry" with the way the opener handled India's pace spearhead Mohammed Shami in the Champions Trophy semifinal in Dubai. Connolly, a late addition to the Australian squad and a surprise pick to open the batting against Rohit Sharma's side ahead of Jake Fraser-McGurk in the last-four clash on Tuesday, was dismissed for a nine-ball duck by Shami. India defeated Steve Smith's side by four wickets with Virat Kohli's brilliance shining through on a slow wicket to make the final. "I got so angry. (Opening partner) Travis Head was gesturing about how slow the wicket was to his partner (in Connolly)," said Healy on SEN Radio. PTI

# Rahul, India's Mr Adaptable

The wicketkeeper has batted at the difficult No.6 position but has adjusted well to make an impact during the Champions Trophy

EXPRESS AT  
CHAMPIONS  
TROPHYVENKATA KRISHNA B  
DUBAI, MARCH 5

KL RAHUL couldn't help himself in the moment. Just as Virat Kohli was walking past him, dismissed playing a big shot in the end moments of the semifinal against Australia, Rahul blurted out in apparent exasperation, 'Mein maar raha tha.' (I was hitting) – words to that effect. And he was. He had perfectly sussed out the match situation, had taken the aggressive role, letting Kohli flow through unhindered, but an instinctive reaction had felled Kohli, who would later be seen explaining why he played that shot to his teammates Shubman Gill and Rishabh Pant.

But that understanding and playing the situation is the reason why Gautam Gambhir has chosen to go with Rahul, rather than Pant. In this Indian team, with Hardik Pandya the designated big hitter in the lower order, and with allrounders like Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel on either side, Gambhir and Rohit Sharma's punt has been to go with the solidity of Rahul, especially considering the sluggish conditions in Dubai.

It has worked out rather well for India, thus far. And especially when Rahul is more than capable of the big hitting; he even has been exclusively working on them in the training sessions.

One of the constant themes in India's net sessions in Dubai has been the sight of Rahul invariably walking in among the first set of batsmen and indulging in some big hits. It hasn't mattered whether he is facing the seamers or spinners or throwdown specialists. His intention has been very clear – to bring out a big shot, especially via aerial, as easily as possible.

Sometimes it happens off the first ball, if not the second or later, but there have been at least three such big hits by the time he has faced 10 deliveries.

These haven't been the power-hitting that many T20 globetrotters put themselves through, but more of him getting used to the situation he is going to come across more often than not when he walks out at No.6.

It isn't an easy role that Rahul has chosen to embrace. When there are failures, which will definitely be there because that's the nature of the beast, questions will be raised over his spot particularly when Pant is warming the bench. Rahul admitted there is little margin of error:

"There is... I won't lie. I mean, he's obviously a very, very talented player and he's shown all of us what he can do and how aggressive and how quickly he can change the game. So yes, there's always the temptation for the team as well, whoever's the captain, the coach too, to either play him or play me. There's always that. But yeah, for me, I just if I'm given the opportunity, I try and see what I can do best." So far, he has been nailing

that.

Right through the tournament which Pakistan are hosting, there have been several criticisms directed at the advantage India have gained by playing all their matches in Dubai. Now with India making it to the final, all those talks aren't going to die down and Gambhir, who seemed bothered about it, weighed in with his thoughts in his own way.



KL Rahul took it upon himself to hit the big shots during his partnership with Virat Kohli in the semifinal against Australia. PTI

those opportunities.

It isn't easy being Rahul, though. Irrespective of the format, there are always some talk going around him good and bad both. These days his stocks as a T20 batsman may have gone down, in the Test arena he is still figuring out whether to bat at the top or in the middle-order. Sometimes, he doesn't have a choice. He is moved up and down because somebody isn't available and he has to be accommodated, even if it means he has to keep wickets.

In ODIs, there is little to no doubt that he is amongst the first names in the teamsheet, for multiple reasons, where he is amongst those players who have shown flexibility like no other.

### Versatile batsman

Take this Champions Trophy for instance, with no third opener in the squad, if one of Rohit Sharma or Shubman Gill were to be unavailable, India just need to look at Rahul. Then in the middle-order, he can be used as a floater. In the lead up to the 2023 World Cup, when India embraced a new intent-driven approach, having Rahul at No.5 gave them stability.

Even if they ended up losing wickets while trying to play the aggressive brand of cricket, India knew they could fall back on Rahul.

With 1,299 runs in 31 innings at an incredible average of 56.47 (which is higher than even MS Dhoni) as No.5, he owned that spot.

Now, since Gambhir came on board as head coach, Rahul's ODI career has taken another new path. With India not having any left-handers in the top 4, and Gambhir being a huge advocate of keeping a left-right combo going in the middle, one of them had to be moved around.

Despite having the numbers to continue batting at No.5, one that has earned the demotion has been Rahul, who since the ODIs in Sri Lanka has walked out to bat at No.6 on six occasions and once at No.5 and 7.

Batting at No.6 means, he is invariably playing the finisher's role where there are more chances of him getting only few deliveries to leave an impact in the game. In conditions like Dubai, it is an altogether different challenge to walk in and straight away get down to finding boundaries and sixes. It is these scenarios, which haven't arrived so far in the Champions Trophy that is making Rahul bat the way he does in the nets. Make no mistake, it has been quite an exhibition to watch him take the left foot out of the way and hit the ball anywhere between long-on or mid-wicket.

He has also provided some jaw-dropping moments as well when the left foot moves across and he effortlessly loftes the ball through the off-side.

"I don't think anyone prepares for an ideal scenario. All of us prepare for a realistic scenario that we might walk in," Rahul said last week about his approach in the nets.

He would then go on to elaborate. "I've moved from number five to number six and sometimes to number seven. So, I realized I need to have that skill to hit sixes probably from ball one or sometimes be able to play with a really high strike rate. So that's why

you see me practicing all of that," he said.

So far in this Champions Trophy, he has batted on three occasions, out of which two have been chases.

Against New Zealand, when India batted first, he came to bat in the 30th over, but got out in the 40th over. However in two tricky chases, it has been his calmness and ability to play those high-risk shots under pressure that has helped him to take India across the line by staying unbeaten. In the first match against Bangladesh, where he remained unbroken on 41, he scored just one boundary and two sixes.

Against Australia in the semi-finals, with Kohli dropping anchor after the loss of Shreyas Iyer and Axar Patel, when Rahul walked India were still 87 runs away with 15 overs to go.

So for 17 deliveries he faced, Rahul kept working the angles, but the moment the asking rate went over 6 runs an over, he walloped Tanveer Sangha and Ben Dwarshuis for boundaries in successive overs before hitting Adam Zampa for a straight-six despite long-on and long-off in place.

And once Kohli fell, and Pandya came in, he went back to deal in singles and twos before finishing the game with a six. It isn't easy being Rahul, but then it's a state he is intimate with all through his career.

## What undue advantage, asks Gambhir, labels critics as cribbers

VENKATA KRISHNA B  
DUBAI, MARCH 5

A DAY after captain Rohit Sharma dismissed any talk of India being at home in Dubai and familiar with the conditions, it was the turn of their head coach Gautam Gambhir to drive home the point even when he was not questioned about it. Speaking shortly after the four-wicket win over Australia, Gambhir was not only assertive but also typically pugnacious with most of the questions put forward.

Right through the tournament which Pakistan are hosting, there have been several criticisms directed at the advantage India have gained by playing all their matches in Dubai. Now with India making it to the final, all those talks aren't going to die down and Gambhir, who seemed bothered about it, weighed in with his thoughts in his own way.

"Some people are just perpetual cribbers, man. They've got to grow up. So, I feel that there was nothing like we had any undue advantage or we had planned something like that."

GAUTAM GAMBHIR  
HEAD COACH, INDIA

Gambhir was then asked if India knew the conditions would be spinner-friendly in Dubai when they picked five spin bowling options, which again didn't sit well with him.

"First of all, this is as neutral a venue for us as it is for any other team. We have not played here. I don't remember which tournament

we played in this stadium last. And in fact, we didn't plan anything like that. The plan was that if you pick two front-line spinners in the 15-man squad, then even if we played in Pakistan or anywhere, we would have picked two front-line spinners because it was a competition on the subcontinent. So, it was nothing like we wanted to set up a spinners' trap. If you look at it, we only played one frontline spinner in the first three matches. We only played two frontline spinners in this match or the previous match. So, it was nothing like that," Gambhir said.

From the moment India picked five spinners there have been several questions as to whether they picked one too many.

There has also been criticism over the decision to demote KL Rahul from No.5 to 6 even as Rishabh Pant continues to warm the bench.

With India now in the final, Gambhir was asked if all his decisions now seem vindicated.

"KL averages 50 in one day cricket, that's the answer," he would say before adding, "I don't care about it (criticism). I don't even care about it honestly. My job is to be honest to 140 crore Indians and to my players in the dressing room. I don't care what people say about it, how they talk about it, whether they've got agendas, whether they've not got agendas, I don't even care about it. If I'm honest to my job, that is all that matters and I can sleep in peace."

"And when you talk about the spinning combination we've got three all-rounders in those five spinners. I don't know why people keep forgetting about it and those three all-rounders are quality all-rounders."

Actually, in the entire squad we've only picked two front line spinners and that is okay in a 15-member squad if you pick two front line spinners that's not too much to be asking for," Gambhir said.

## Champs Trophy

### 'Bilateral series is government decision'

BCCI VICE president Rajeev Shukla on Wednesday said it is "very categorical and clear" that resumption of bilateral cricket between India and Pakistan is subjected to Indian government's clearance. The senior BCCI official, who is here on the invitation of the Pakistan Cricket Board to watch the Champions Trophy semifinal between New Zealand and South Africa, also said India team doesn't depend on favourable pitches to excel. "As far as you are asking about (cricket) as between the two countries, it is very categorical and clear that it is the (Indian) government's decision. Whatever the government of India says, we will go as per them," Shukla said on Wednesday. "Pakistan is hosting an international tournament after a long time and it is a good thing." PTI

### Right time to make way: Smith retires

AUSTRALIA'S STAND-IN skipper and batting mainstay Steve Smith on Wednesday announced his retirement from ODIs after his team's semifinal loss to India in Dubai. The 35-year-old, who top-scored in the match with a 96-ball 73, informed his teammates of the decision after the four-wicket loss on Tuesday night, according to a statement from Cricket Australia. He will continue to play Tests and T20 Internationals. "It feels like the right time to make way. It has been a great ride and I have loved every minute of it," Smith said. "Test cricket remains a priority and I am really looking for-



Steve Smith made 5,800 ODI runs in 170 matches with 12 centuries. PTI

ward to the World Test Championship Final, the West Indies in the winter and then England at home. I feel I still have a lot to contribute on that stage," he added. PTI

### Cannot build pressure on Kohli, says Agar

AUSTRALIAN SPINNER Ashton Agar said that it was pretty difficult to build any pressure on Virat Kohli when he is in hot form. "It is not the damage that he can do to the fence, it's just the fact that you cannot build pressure on him. So it's really hard to get him out in a sense. You never really feel like you're on top of him unless the ball is really spinning. And you don't get a lot of pitches in one-day cricket like that," Agar said on ESPNcricinfo's Match Day. "That's the frustrating part about bowling to him. He has that fantastic ability to hit your best ball, the top of middle stump, slightly spinning away, he holds the bat's face slightly longer than other batters do, opens it in the last second, and hits it in the cover point gap. He's probably the best in the world at doing that." ENS

### ICC ODI rankings: Kohli moves to 4th spot

INDIA'S VIRAT KOHLI rose to No.4 spot in the ICC ODI rankings for batters after his match-winning knock against Australia in the semi-finals on Sunday. Thanks to Kohli's knock, India defeated Australia by four wickets to enter the final of the event where they will await the winner of the second semi-final between South Africa and New Zealand. While Kohli rose one rank in the ODI batting charts, India captain Rohit Sharma fell two spots to No.5. Sharma has focussed on giving India blistering starts in the Champions Trophy. Kohli has scored 217 runs in four matches at the Champions Trophy is also No 4 in the top run-scorers at the tournament. Sharma is 25th in the top run-scorers list with 104 runs in four games. ENS

## BRIEFLY

## Real beat Atletico 2-1, Arsenal thrash PSV

**Madrid:** A superb goal from Brahim Diaz helped Real Madrid maintain its dominance of the Madrid derby on Europe's biggest stage with a 2-1 victory over bitter rival Atletico in the first leg of their Champions League last 16 tie on Tuesday. Atletico has been beaten by the record 15-time European champion in both Champions League final matchups and has won only three of 11 meetings with their city rivals in UEFA competitions. Also Tuesday, Arsenal made a massive step toward a quarterfinal spot with a 7-1 win at PSV Eindhoven. It was the biggest victory in an away match in the knockout stage of the Champions League, UEFA said. AP

## Ayush, Prannoy enter Orleans Masters 2R

**Orleans:** India's Ayush Shetty produced a sensational straight-game victory over former world champion Loh Kean Yew of Singapore, while HS Prannoy also advanced to the second round of the USD 240,000 Orleans Masters with a gritty three-game win on Wednesday. World No. 42 Ayush, the 2023 World Junior Championships bronze medallist, stunned third seed Loh 21-17, 21-9, recording one of the biggest wins of his career to move into the second round. He will next face Hong Kong's Jason Gunawan. PTI

## ISL: Odisha stay alive in race for playoffs

**Jamshedpur:** Hugo Boumous struck a brace as Odisha FC defeated Jamshedpur FC 3-2 to remain in the hunt for a playoffs berth in the Indian Super League (ISL) here on Wednesday. Boumous scored in the 37th and 53rd minutes after teammate Dori had given their side the lead in the 21st minute. Jordan Murray (84th) and Stephen Eze (90+1) were the scorers for Jamshedpur. With the win at the JRD Tata Sports Complex, the Juggernauts climbed to the sixth spot with 33 points from 24 matches, but their league campaign has wrapped up. PTI

## Prague Masters: Pragg held to a draw

**Prague:** Grandmasters R Pragganandhaa and Aravindh Chithambaram continued to remain in joint lead after drawing their sixth-round games in the Prague Masters Chess tournament here. Pragganandhaa was held to a draw by Sam Shankland of the United States, while Aravindh split the point with Quang Le of Vietnam to be on four points out of a possible six, on a day when all the games were drawn for the first time in the tournament. PTI

## Hamilton feeling 2007 flashbacks

**Maranello:** Lewis Hamilton's first race for Ferrari in Australia next week is reminding him of how he felt ahead of his Formula One debut for McLaren in Melbourne in 2007. "It's been a long winter, but it's also been very short. But I'm really grateful we had good testing last week," said the 40-year-old Briton. "I can't believe the race is already next week... it'll start to sink in a little bit as the weekend arrives. And I feel excited. I feel we are as best prepared as we could be, given the short space of time that I have had." There's still things to learn but I'm just excited to get going. I love racing... being at Melbourne is going to be very reminiscent of my first grand prix there." REUTERS

## PIONEER PADDLER

## Table tennis legend Sharath retires; leaves unmatched legacy

## ANIL DIAS

MUMBAI, MARCH 5

WHEN ACHANTA Sharath Kamal started playing table tennis in the 1990s, the scoring system was different, the ball was faster, the rubber used was much different, and frankly, there wasn't much technology. India had some brilliant players but weren't on the sport's global map. At the national level, there was always fierce competition, but they struggled at the international level.

When Sharath first won his national title in 2003, he was content but thought just being a national champion wouldn't be enough for him. He wanted to be among the best in the world.

The only problem was that no Indian had done it before. It was up to Sharath to find a path for himself. And he did. He was the first Indian paddler to train abroad and play for a club, the first to win international medals, and surely the first Indian paddler recognised globally.

And by doing it for himself, he inspired a generation of paddlers in India who took

UNLIKELY TO BE A CAKEWALK  
Why India should be wary of New Zealand in the final

## Spin bowling options, batting depth and athletic fielding make Kiwis a formidable side

**IN SUNDAY'S ICC Champions Trophy final, India will face New Zealand, a side that will give them a stiff challenge. Having already played India at the venue last Sunday, New Zealand know what to expect in terms of conditions, which South Africa wouldn't have had, if they had made it. The Indian Express takes a look at the reasons that make New Zealand a strong side to overcome in the final.**

## SPIN IN THE TALE

If there is any team in the Champions Trophy that could match or come close to India in terms of spin bowling resources, it is the Kiwis. Led by left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner, they have three other spin bowling options in Michael Bracewell, Glenn Phillips and

Rachin Ravindra. So in terms of variety in the spin department, they have their bases covered. In their group match, India came out prepared to deal with them. But this time, New Zealand will come back fully aware of what exactly to do in these conditions. With the final set to be played on the same pitch that was used for India's game against Pakistan, the Kiwi spinners will have a big role to play.

## PACE VALUE

What caught India by surprise against the Kiwis was the movement their seamers were able to generate with the new ball. In the other three matches that India have played here, seam movement has been non-existent. But against Kiwis, it was different. Part of it can be



Kiwis' skipper Mitchell Santner has been in fine form.

attributed to the height of their pacers - who are all tall - and because they bowl a good length and there is more air time, there is more chance of movement in the air. To go with their movement, the extra bounce that they generate has also troubled India's top order in recent times across all formats in ICC events. India need to come up with a definite plan to counter this as runs in the first Powerplay are crucial.

## GUN FIELDING

As they showed last Sunday with their fielding, New Zealand are capable of saving 30-40 runs in the field. If that isn't enough, they often convert half-chances into catches. In any other team, the likes of Santhar, Will Young and Michael Bracewell could be considered top fielders, but here they have Glenn Phillips, who can change the course of the game with his exceptional fielding. With all their best fielders in the ring when the spinners operate, they can apply pressure by cutting off singles. And if the

ball is anywhere in their range, they dive around to take blinder. So India know they have to earn every run, and that in itself adds to the pressure.

## BATTING DEPTH

Like India, the Black Caps have a batting line-up well suited to the conditions. Though they didn't quite pull it off during their chase on Sunday, they have the quality to not be written off. In Rachin, Young and Kane Williamson, they have a top three that can not just provide rapid starts, but also hang around long enough to build a base for the middle order. While most teams have struggled against India's spinners, the Kiwis can change that trend thanks to the likes of Tom Latham, Daryl Mitchell and Phillips, who are all good against tweakers. The other night, they were undone by a special performance from Varun Chakaravarthy, but come Sunday they will be prepared.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

## Kiwi class aces Proteas test

After expert partnership between Rachin and Williamson, Santner shows his nous with the ball to lead NZ to victory

## SRIRAM VEERA

MARCH 5

THERE WAS a moment when Kane Williamson was still new to the crease and struggling to find his touch, when he stood peering at an offending spot on the pitch, somewhere on a good-length area. He had a quizzical look on his face as if to suggest 'this pitch isn't quite what we expected, we have to adapt.'

It was the end of an over from Kagiso Rabada during the first Powerplay, and he walked across to have a chat with his partner Rachin Ravindra, who would later say that 'the pitch held up at times, looked a bit crumbly,' but how 'Kane helped me'. The ball had begun to show signs of stopping a touch and it was clear then that it was a great toss to win.

Not only did the New Zealanders adapt, they didn't even settle for a lower target. Instead, the pair changed the way they bat, and instead of attempting to hit on the up and through the line, smartly used the crease and angles so brilliantly that South Africa didn't have answers. Only Lungi Ngidi impressed, with a slew of slower cutters, but the rest floundered.

'Masterclass' is a word often used as a throwaway remark, but the way Williamson and Rachin stitched together their match-winning partnership deserves the tag.



Rachin Ravindra (L) and Kane Williamson both hit centuries and combined for a 164-run partnership on Wednesday. Reuters

he was up and running. Once Williamson found his touch, South Africa began to crumble.

As compared to Williamson, Rachin was always flowing. When the ball was new in the Powerplay, he punched it to get boundaries. Initially, South Africa thought a short-ball ploy could work. Mistake. Rachin crunched a couple of pulls off the front foot.

They then hurled it fuller, and the balls were thrown back from the straight boundary as he creamed them with the full face of the bat.

## Lone ranger

The scorecard won't reveal how well Keshav Maharaj bowled. If he were bowling to his own batsmen, one can easily imagine a five-for, he was that good. But Williamson came into his own against him.

He employed two tactics to throw Maharaj off the perch. He would occasionally step outside leg-stump, and mix it up by moving down the track but getting outside off in the process.

He could either cut or ping cow corner with that approach. Against such inventiveness, especially in the calm manner that

'Masterclass' is a word often used as a throwaway remark, but the way Williamson and Rachin stitched together their match-winning partnership deserves the tag.

Williamson pulled it off, Maharaj didn't stand a chance. And the left-handed Rachin hurt him more by moving down the track to smear him straight or hit with the turn.

Barring Maharaj, there was only Ngidi who tried to be smart with his cutters. Even Rabada had begun to flounder. In the end overs, they got smacked all around the park by Glenn Phillips and Daryl Mitchell.

The South African chase got off to a meandering start. Temba Bavuma couldn't get going initially but to his credit, recovered in the company of Rassie van der Dussen with a 105-run partnership in almost 17 overs. This was where the New Zealand captain revealed his trump card: himself.

If Maharaj was good, Mitchell Santner was even better. Unlike Maharaj, whose

range went from slow to slower. Santner also gets quickish turn. Admittedly, the pitch had begun to help him a lot more by then, but he was skilful and cerebral with his art. One gripped and broke past the iffy prod from Van Der Dussen to clatter his off-stump.

Four overs before that, he had slowed up the pace on one and got it to turn, inducing Bavuma's intended hoick to spiral up to backward point. Suddenly, South Africa were 161 for 3 in the 27th over.

Much then depended on Heinrich Klaasen but Santner intervened again. Increasingly playing the ball off the pitch, Klaasen kept going back. But such was the match situation that he still had to try and conjure big shots, and he made the mistake of trying to punch-heave Santner off the backfoot.

The ball stuck in the pitch, popped up ever so slowly and the catch was swallowed at long-on. It was 167 for 4, and when Aiden Markram patted a ball from Rachin, that again stopped a touch, back to the bowler South Africa were wobbling away like intoxicated men at 189 for 5 in 33 overs.

## SCOREBOARD

## SOUTH AFRICA VS NEW ZEALAND

GADDAFISTADIUM, LAHORE

Toss: New Zealand, chose to bat

NEW ZEALAND	
W Young c Markram b Ngidi	21(23b, 3x4)
R Ravindra c Klaasen b Rabada	108 (101b, 13x4, 1x6)
K Williamson c Ngidi b Mulder	102 (94b, 10x4, 2x6)
D Mitchell c Rabada b Ngidi	49 (37b, 4x4, 1x6)
T Latham b Rabada	4 (5b)
G Phillips not out	49 (27b, 6x4, 1x6)
M Bracewell c Rickleton b Ngidi	16 (12b, 2x4)
M Santner not out	2 (1b)
■ Extras (lb 5, w 6)	11
■ Total (6 wickets; 50 overs; RR: 7.24)	362
■ FoW: 1-48 (Will Young, 7.5 ov), 2-212 (Rachin Ravindra, 33.3 ov), 3-251 (Kane Williamson, 39.5 ov), 4-257 (Tom Latham, 41.1 ov), 5-314 (Daryl Mitchell, 46.1 ov), 6-360 (Michael Bracewell, 49.5 ov)	
■ Bowling: Marco Jansen 10-0-79-0, Lungi Ngidi 10-0-72-3, Kagiso Rabada 10-1-70-2, Wiaan Mulder 6-0-48-1, Keshav Maharaj 10-0-65-0, Aiden Markram 4-0-23-0.	

## SOUTH AFRICA (TARGET: 362 RUNS)

R Rickleton c Bracewell b Henry 17 (12b, 4x4)

SOUTH AFRICA	
R Rickleton c Bracewell b Henry	17 (12b, 4x4)
T Bavuma c Williamson b Santner	56 (7lb, 4x4, 1x6)
R van der Dussen b Santner	69 (66b, 4x4, 2x6)
A Markram c & b Ravindra	31 (29b, 3x4)
H Klaasen c Henry b Santner	3 (7b)
D Miller not out	100 (67b, 10x4, 4x6)
W Mulder c Ravindra b Bracewell	8 (13b, 1x4)
M Jansen lbw b Phillips	3 (7b)
K Maharaj c Latham b Phillips	1 (4b)
K Rabada c Phillips b Henry	16 (22b, 2x4)
L Ngidi not out	1 (2b)
■ Extras (w 7)	7
■ Total (9 wickets; 50 overs)	312
■ FoW: 1-20 (Ryan Rickleton, 4.5 ov), 2-125 (Temba Bavuma, 22.2 ov), 3-161 (Rassie van der Dussen, 26.5 ov), 4-167 (Heinrich Klaasen, 28.4 ov), 5-189 (Aiden Markram, 32.6 ov), 6-200 (Wiaan Mulder, 35.6 ov), 7-212 (Marco Jansen, 37.6 ov), 8-218 (Keshav Maharaj, 39.3 ov), 9-256 (Kagiso Rabada, 45.3 ov).	
■ Bowling: Matt Henry 7-0-43-2, Kyle Jameson 7-1-57-0, Will Rouke 8-0-69-0, Michael Bracewell 10-0-53-1, Mitchell Santner 10-0-43-3, Rachin Ravindra 5-0-20-1, Glenn Phillips 3-0-27-2.	

## NUMBER PLATE

7

New Zealand spinners combined for seven wickets: joint-most in the Kiwis' ODI history. Keshav Maharaj also took his 10th wicket of the tournament, most for any bowler.



Seven-time CWG gold medallist Achanta Sharath Kamal announced his retirement on Wednesday. File

More than his medals, Sharath must be remembered for how his drive and love for the sport constantly drove him to break the toughest of barriers.

## Olympics.

Only the top 16 teams in the world make it, and India had never even come close to qualifying for the team event at an Olympics.

Qualifying meant that the team would be just two wins away from a medal round. A table tennis medal at the Olympics is the ultimate dream.

When Sharath first started competing over two decades ago, back in 2002, he would never have fathomed that India could stand a chance at medalling at the Olympics.

They could maybe compete at the Asian level, but the Olympics was a far cry.

Having begun his Olympic journey at Athens 2004 as a 21-year-old, Sharath knew that winning a medal in singles was

almost impossible. The top players were just unbeatable. He realised, though, that India as a team could be really strong.

He did everything in his capacity to ensure that India qualified. He constantly coordinated with the players and advised them which tournaments they should and shouldn't play. He trained with them and